GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—(*contd.*)

PRESIDENT : The time from now up to the commencement of the lunch interval will be at the disposal of the non-officials to continue the general discussion. The time after lunch will be at the disposal of the Government benches.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : May I know whether the non-officials are at liberty to speak after some of the officials have spoken ? Are the non-officials forbidden to speak after the officials ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : That is not the convention of this House. Non-official members speak first and official members speak after that, for the reason that only then will the officials be able to reply to the criticisms of all the non-officials. If any non-official member attacks any department after the official member in charge of the department has spoken, how will he be able to reply to that ?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : The President also has got the power of speaking.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is the Law Member at liberty to reply to him now ?

PRESIDENT : He is in possession of the House at present.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know whether the non-official members should not be allowed to reply to the criticisms of the official members ?

PRESIDENT : That is not the convention of the House.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : What Mr. Parameswaran Pillai said as the convention of the House is quite correct. But, Sir, in view of the fact that the non-officials should also be given opportunities to reply to the criticisms of the officials, I am asking whether the convention cannot be changed ? That is the question I am raising.

PRESIDENT : It is purely a matter of time. The non-officials are given a day and a half and the officials must be given at least half a day. We will take that matter up for consideration together with some other matters of procedure which seem to call for consideration.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*) : Sir, The Budget for the year 1103, placed before us in the able and clear statement of the Financial Secretary, reveals a state of affairs which marks the current year as having very little in common with the years that have gone before. We have already reaped a huge surplus of Rs. 23 lakhs last year, and this year, it is even greater and comes to nearly Rs. 29 lakhs. This is a satisfactory state of financial affairs and to quote Mr. K. George, it discloses an "earnest of financial stability". We might now safely say that we are free from the bugbear of financial insolvency. The Government and the Financial Secretary have therefore to be certainly congratulated. The chart prepared by the Financial Secretary and put up on the walls of the Council Hall, is a new departure this year, which no doubt enables us to visualise the Budget

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estimates of the three years and helps us to study them by comparison with the actuals of the pre-war year.

But the prosperity budget of a State does not often indicate the prosperity of the people. If it were due to increased production or increased commerce, as is the case with customs items this year, the prosperity of the State and the people would have been identical. The income from the Development Departments invariably forms an index of the national wealth and the fact that the income from these departments has almost been stationary for the last so many years, suggests that the resources of the country have not been fully tapped and that much remains to be done in this direction. Take, for instance, the Forest Department. The income of this department does not show any sign of improvement. Year after year, the attention of the Government was being drawn to this fact and yet the old tell-tale story is repeated. At one time it was alleged that owing to conditions brought about by the Great War there was no prospect for the sale of timber in European markets. Those conditions are now changed, but we see no change in the condition of the Forest Department.

In the case of the Excise Department, the income from salt is not at all encouraging. Our indigenous salt industry admits of vast scope for development. The proposal to start a pumping installation at Colachel may indicate a dawning sense of Government's responsibility in this matter.

Some of the so-called Development Departments are not doing enough work to justify their existance. The world is yet to know what is the extent of relief which the Industries Department has brought to the country.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in trying to make its influence felt among the agricultural population of the State has so far met with only partial success. It is no relief to the peasant population to learn that the cocanut palm disease continues to remain as it is and that no adequate remedy has been found for it. The result has been that the produce of the cocoanut palms in the coast regions has fallen off and what little has been produced has lacked good markets especially in the case of *coir* and *copra*. The Development Department might conceivably give more attention to problems of marketing. Our participation in the Wembley Exhibition which was expected to open wide, world markets for our products, has led to very little practical result. We have not followed up the connection formed at Wembley. In such products as rubber and tea, which are in the hands of European planters mostly, the market is so well organised that prices are uniform throughout the world. But, in goods produced by the Indian cultivator, we find great disparity between the prices that rule in Travancore and the prices fetched elsewhere. The appointment of a Trade Agent in the produce markets of the world may secure better prices for Travancore produce and may do something to help us to secure markets and to hold them. After all, the cultivator is the back-bone of the country. His prosperity will reflect itself in the prosperity of the State. His starvation will cause the poverty of the State. Extreme indebtedness throttles the cultivator, and any measure which would help to relieve indebtedness is bound to show itself in the prosperity of the State.

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The plan for establishing a Land Mortgage Bank is well worth exploiting in this connection. Fish trade in the country, so long as it is in the hands of middlemen, is not bound to develop. The attempt of the department to transfer this trade to the fishermen, provided they organise themselves into Co-operative Societies, is commendable. This is a real grievance of the *Valas* of North Travancore and the Government, it is hoped, will see their way to redress this grievance of theirs.

In so far as these departments and others of their category have not sufficiently contributed to the huge surplus of this year's budget, we cannot say that the people of the State are sufficiently prosperous. On the other hand, the increase may only be due to better efficiency in collection from sources whose fecundity only spells the ruin of the people. This appears to be the truth in the growth of the Excise Revenue. There is no doubt that it was due to special efforts in collection, Mr. Van Ross going to the extent of taking a holiday from the Council itself, this time last year, to bring in a larger amount of the tainted revenue. In spite of our resolutions in favour of prohibition, in spite of the committee's recommendations and Government promises, the one indubitable growth marked among the people is that of drunkenness with all its attendant miseries. I am forced to speak with vehemence on this subject as the taluk, which I have the honour of representing in this Council, appears to have been made the headquarters of the demon of drink. Whereas there is only one toddy shop for every five miles in the whole of the State, my constituency has got one for every mile.

Therefore, we are not doing violence to truth when we say that the prosperity budget does not indicate corresponding prosperity among the people. He who runs may read the indigence, the poverty and the famine conditions prevailing in most parts of the State. Adequate stress may be laid upon this fact, because otherwise this mock prosperity would beguile the officers of Government into a state of supineness which might lead to a relaxation of efforts, meant to advance the true welfare of the people. When people are obviously in want, the Government feel the necessity of helping them. When they are apparently prosperous, the Government consider its help superfluous. Such is the danger from a prosperity budget.

We are really glad that this year also the P. W. D. and the Education grants are to be discussed first. Nothing requires the watchful care of the representatives of the people so much as the P. W. D. Budget. It is one of the squeezable items of our State expenditure. It is only after repeated and loud knockings at the door, both of the Council and the Assembly, that money is allotted for particular roads, canals or other means of communication, and, Sir, imagine with what amount of heart-burning it is that one has to learn that a large portion of this money has been lapsing in former years owing to the indifference of the departmental agents who find it impossible to spend the amount during the period on the items for which they had been sanctioned,

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From the Budget speech of the Financial Secretary, it is evident that Rs. 57,000 has lapsed last year. It is earnestly hoped that with the advent of the new Chief Engineer, who appears to show a readiness to co-operate with the people and to sympathise with their wants, this state of affairs will cease to continue.

Sir, my constituency *i. e.*, Shertallai taluk is a place where want of roads or other means of communication is keenly felt and it was in recognition of this fact that a liberal grant was made last year. We are certainly thankful for this act of justice which was long over-due. In this connection, I wish to recall to memory a passage in the Presidential address made by the Dewan at the last session of the Assembly.

"Another road to the construction of which special efforts have been directed is the Alleppey-Shertallai-Arur road. About Rs. 63,700 has been allotted towards the construction of this road during the current year and rapid progress is being made so that there will be through communication by road from our southern frontier, Aramboly, to Shertallai by the end of this year, and right up to the Cochin frontier in the course of the next year."

Coming as it does from the minister of the State, it is a weighty utterance meant to be carried out to the very letter. But we are disappointed to see that provision made for the Shertallai-Arur road in this year's budget does not go far enough to complete the work next year. If it is due to an oversight, the reserve allowed to remain for urgent works in this department might be utilised for the completion of this road.

The expenditure on education is certainly staggering as regards the collegiate section. Year after year, the demands of the Science College are becoming abnormal. The bifurcation of the Old College was meant to give additional facilities to students seeking admission to the colleges, and yet we understand that this year the Science College, refusing admission to very many students, considerably reduced the seats in several classes. Thirty-six microscopes have been got down and they have got only thirty students to use them. Sir, the extravagance of the Science College has become a bye-word. It is now overstaffed and yet they demand more Assistant Professors and Demonstrators.

As regards the High School eduction, we have often termed the policy of suppressing private initiative as suicidal. It is private enterprise that should relieve the Government of its expenditure in this direction. And yet, the restrictions imposed upon private educational agency cannot but handicap it. The requirements of the Code are ridiculously incongruous with the conditions to which they are applied. Copied from English models, they insist on equipments which are more needed for the climate and conditions in England than to India. Every one knows that to ask for a grant is to be committed to greater expenditure than the grant can reimburse, and many prefer to go without the grant. It is notorious that in this case charity does not begin at home and ideal conditions are more insisted on, in private more than in Government schools.

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A word should be said about the School Final results. This year too, there was a large slaughter. Over and above the personal hardships involved, no one gives a thought to the amount of money which these failed candidates cost to the Government. If each boy costs the Government a certain sum for his education, it goes without saying that the cost of re-educating the same boy, will have to be borne by the Government itself. When we hear whisperings of institutional jealousies being at the bottom of these failures, our indignation knows no measure.

Unemployment is growing as rapidly as the growth in the numbers in our colleges and the two appear to be correlated. Our educational system is creating unemployment and we still rush headlong in the same direction. A comprehensive committee to go into the whole question of educational reconstruction will find ample work to do.

Let me end, as I began, with the talk of the surplus. This surplus has been repeating itself for so many years that we shall not be far wrong if we look upon it as permanent. There is one other considerable source of prospective income in the rubber trade which has until now gone untaxed. While the poor cultivator of the plains has to pay towards the cost of the administration, the rich planter of the hills goes scot-free. A tax on rubber will increase the surplus and make it more steady. Therefore, we may now consider means for utilising this surplus for the welfare of the people. Except in so far as it gives the State the appearance of financial stability, a surplus by itself is no unmixed good. The money that lies idle with the Government may go a great way in private hands. To the rich man, an additional rupee may not measure so much utility as it does to a poor man. Therefore, it goes without saying that the surplus money in the hands of the Government will be of greater value in the hands of the pepole. The way of the Government is consequently clear. Remission of taxes which press unduly upon the poor should be the first and foremost means of utilising this surplus. This point was urged upon the Government again and again in the Council. The country is full of vexatious tolls, cesses and dues. The abolition of a few of these will, without considerably reducing the surplus, produce incalculable good to the people.

Again, a portion of the surplus might be used to cure the evil of unemployment. At present, this is being done only by the maintenance of an Unemployment Committee. The committee has been sitting for the last one year and yet is nowhere near the conclusion. There is a better way of using the surplus to rid the country of unemployment. The President has adduced the necessity for relieving unemployment in support of his railway, electricity and water supply schemes. The railway would require a large number of engineers, accountants clerks and mechanics; the water-supply scheme would similarly call for the services of engineers, plumbers, and other administrative officials; the electric-supply scheme would find employment for electricians and mechanicians. Unless we are prepared for it in advance, we shall be called upon to import foreigners to fill these places.

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Therefore, even now, we should adumbrate a scheme for sending Travancore young men for training abroad in these professions under Government scholarships.

A third way in which, out of our abundance, we could provide for our necessities, is by extending medical relief. We are glad to know that the Government are opening seven more dispensaries. But they are but a drop in the ocean. Advance along the lines of Government doctors and Government dispensaries can be but slow, being costly. We should find some ways of subsidising local practitioners as in Madras. If we do this, there is not likely to be a long waiting list of doctors to be employed. Disbanding volunteers will be no remedy. Appointing them to mofussil stations even in charge of dispensaries will give them a form of subsidy.

In one matter, we are very remiss. We do not make enough provision for the old and infirm, the halt and the maimed, the destitute and the poor. Temple charities and private charities are being contracted, while the poor continue with us in increasing numbers. It is high time that the Government take some responsibility for them.

We are also glad to know that the Government are utilising the surplus for useful capital expenditure, such as involved in electric and water-supplies schemes. These are general utility services of great and vital necessity in Trivandrum, and they may be looked upon as reproductive. But we hope the Government will not forget the poor half-starved Vernacular school teachers, recommendations for bettering whose position have been made by a committee appointed by this House of which I happen to be a member. The Government should give early effect to the recommendations of the committee and the Vernacular school teachers should be paid better, at least by the beginning of Chingam next.

In conclusion, I have to say that these comments of mine have been made in good faith, in the hope that the Government will give them due heed. Unfortunately, as has been said by other members of the House, representations and decisions made in this Council have not received the treatment conceded by the law of the State. It will conduce to greater cordiality between the Government and the people if the Government seek out and give effect to popular opinion. I fully hope our discussions on the budget before us will result in a financial scheme which would in every way redound to the welfare of the people of this land.

Mr. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The presentation of the budget for 1103 seems to bear with it a distinct departure from that of the previous years in its form. It is refreshingly clear reading and easily understandable and for that reason worse off in its effect than those of the previous years. But I must confess I am almost tempted to congratulate the Financial Secretary to Government, not in the conventional fashion, but as a recognition of the grip on questions of finance which he has evinced with facility and naturalness, all his own.

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On analysis, it is entirely disappointing to me. It might be due to my limitations or perhaps it is the underlying intention of the Travancore budgets as a whole. It is true that next year also will bring in a surplus, though not so big as in the current year or the previous years. Surplus, Sir, is going to make a permanent abode in Travancore and that, in effect, is the sugar-coating and if I may be permitted to quote a famous saying—I am constrained to say that the dictium is always true—that is to say, an inflated system of revenue is nothing more than the elephantiasis which is only a muscular development. No doubt, Sir, the budget has made provision for luxuries for the rich and has still starved the starving. The ambitious programmes of water and electricity supply and the railway extension with a model station house at its terminus, all these for the embellishment of the Trivandrum city at the expense of the general tax-payer sound big and imperial. It is said that the capital has got to be furnished in the imperial fashion to get the hall-mark of civilisation and to deserve the association with the Imperial Delhi. Sir, we are having a surplus budget and the question is asked : Then, why not beautify our metropolis ?

Sir, I have heard it said by great financiers that a deficit budget is an index of the progressive character of a country. If that were correct in any way, this surplus ought to indicate that our country is on the retrograde move. Perhaps, neither a surplus nor a deficit is an indicative factor of any progress or retrogression. It might be a trade secret. Therefore, may I ask, Sir, in what way are we enlightened by the presentation of the budget? It shows nothing but that we shall be keeping up this show for one more year. Can we afford the expense? Is the country able to bear it? The expenditure on fruitless and faulty education is literally staggering. It is fed up by alcohol. Public service has become the hunting ground for favourites and toadies. The factors concerning expenditure have been uniformly keeping steady, whereas those of revenue are unreliable by their nature. I ask, Sir, in all seriousness, are we moving forward or backward? Is not the progress, if progress there be, that of a rake? Could it be said that it is sound finance? Are we not living entirely on our capital? Now, Sir, how to tackle the problem, is the question. I fear this statement of mine might be challenged. For I draw your attention, Sir, to the fact that the credit of a country depends on its ability to borrow out of the country itself. Do you think, Sir, for any enterprise, beneficial or otherwise, the Government might undertake, it will be possible to raise a loan from within its own borders? We have heard other countries over-subscribing loans in the twinkling of an eye. What is it here? What about the raising of the debenture loan of Rs. 18 lakhs for the Trivandrum-Quilon Railway? Sir, to raise that loan, offered to the public as a gilt-edged security, it took more than a year to sell out the debentures and took all the persuasion and energy of Government officials. And to-day, it stands quoted at a discount. I am subject to correction. Something like seventy-five to eighty per cent. of its value it fetches and it remains unwept, unhonoured and unsung. That shows the wealth of our country. The people have no faith in the financial

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resources of the country. The Government are at the end of their tether. They are verging on bankruptsy. Will the Government be pleased to take a lesson out of it? In remedying it lies our safety and salvation? The Treasury Benches meet us with distorted vision and are in a fighting mood. They think that they are privileged and forget that they are of the people. The villages that feed them are no concern of theirs. They trot out arguments by means of figures to show the necessity for increase of staff, both special and ordinary, to cope with the imaginary increase of work. They set at nought the real public feeling and sometimes flout the public as seen in the episode of the Karkad approach road, imposition of tolls, reduction of Anchal rates and in pooh-poohing the question of prohibition. Adding insult to injury, my friend Mr. Van Ross, seriously wants us to believe that he is the Pussy-foot of Travancore. The Chief Secretary is overflowing with the milk of human sympathy for the depressed classes of Karkad and their benefactor, Mr. Paul Daniel, sings Hallelujah. The foreigner's exploitation of the country is made to take the shape of a Samaritan on giving selfless succour to the unemployed and the starving poor.

Now, let us turn to the other side of the picture, I mean the public opinion. It has become putrified by infection. Public opinion instead of focussing its opinion on larger issues is mainly concerned with communal squabbles for power and office, with all the episodes preceding the promulgation of Regulation V of 1101.

Agriculture has not yet made that expected progress. In the course of the address at the Economic Conference, Mr. Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore, said that it is a matter of great shame that Mysore has to depend for 20 per cent. of its rice consumption on foreign places in spite of their splendid tank system. Here also, we depend, not 20 per cent. only, but more for our rice consumption on foreign import, and the splendid natural system of tanks in South Travancore is being undermined by stupid auction and registry of their beds. The worst of it is that the paltry allotment for their maintenance is not even properly spent and it is a matter of great shame, if that be true, that there is going to be a big surrender this year also from the K. P. Division.

The periodical visit of foreign sheep for the purpose of manuring the fields during dry cultivation in Nanjinad is stopped by the Forest Department by imposing punitive rates on them. Sir, I could say this much on behalf of Nanjinad that the productive capacity of lands has decreased and the economic condition of the people calls for an immediate enquiry, as forecasted in the same address by Mr. Mirza Ismail, to undertake an economic survey, district by district; but here nobody seems to be interested in the question of rice production.

All our attention is directed to money crops like rubber and tea. It has now entered into the domain of speculation. This reminds me of the coffee estates in South Travancore and what became of the planters when ruin overtook them. What is more significant is that while rubber escapes tax-free, there is no hope for any attempt at

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removing this heavy burden of taxation on land which produces paddy and which has been groaning under this burden for years together.

Our mainstay as usual is excise. We seem to be thriving well on alcohol, opium, ganja and tobacco while advanced countries are introducing prohibition. We are in no way near it, except it be the complacent and gratuitous application of the pruning knife in the number of shops. One may almost say that the whole administration depends on alcohol. Our schools and colleges are run partly on alcohol. It behoves us as citizens of a civilized Government to meet this problem with a clearer vision. Our educational institution is merely intended to demonstrate the average literacy of Travancoreans in the Census Report. We have already achieved reputation in this direction. In every other respect, it is becoming increasingly difficult what to do with these people who are having no benefit of their higher education. The market is glutted with these products. There is, of course, a disinclination to go back to older occupation. Government service, which is the only avenue open to them, has long been closed.

To a very important and highly intelligent community in the State, commerce is anathema. The outlook is gloomy indeed and nobody seems to think of any solution. We have reached that stage when it will be statemenship to cry halt and to think what to do with our costly educational institution. Scrap them, Sir, if you please.

All advanced educational efforts are directed as stated already to taking up Government service. Apart from the power and prestige and conveniences of life appertaining to it, the glamour for it would not be still so great but for the fact that it is the best paid for the lightest work to be done. Our Professors and Headmasters claim superfine texture for their brains so much so that it has come to stay that their work varies inversely with the period of their work and Assistant Professors and Deputy Headmasters have become inevitable. They always require more pay and less work. But, at the same time, they are not prepared to strike work. And it is the Government service which is admittedly eating up nearly a large share of our revenue and what is of deeper significance, it leads to interminable communal squabbles. Government service is all very well for the individual to whichever community he may belong, but never for the community itself. As I mentioned already, about one important community, *viz.*, the Nayars, if only they had employed their wonderful gifts in industry and commerce, they would surely have been one of the most important communities in all India, like the Parsis, for instance. (Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: *Hear, hear.*) In this connection, I may be permitted to observe, Sir, that another equally important community, *viz.*, the Christians have reached the top-notch of their progress when they entered into the race for Government service neglecting their well-known instinct and aptitude for commerce and industry. There is the funny side of the business, that is, while these two communities are at each other's throats, it is the third community which is reaping the benefit of it. Of course, I mean the Brahmins. For every appointment for which the Christian and the Nayar are fighting, the Brahmin gets two without any fuss and

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without anybody knowing anything about it. I would deem it an evil day for the Tamilian if he fell a prey to the blandishment of Government service.

I have placed all these remarks before the House in the hope that it may be possible to look to the larger interests of the country rather than the narrower and tiresome communal interests, that ways and means may come to be devised by which the problem confronting our educated young men may be solved and that it may still be possible to make the administration of the country less costly and less of a terrible burden that it now is upon the poor ryot.

In other respects, I may congratulate the Financial Secretary upon the excellent budget he has presented—even though I was not able to make much out of it—and upon the excellent surplus which he has promised and which ought to prove a comfort to the much taxed Nanjinadian, even though it may not be an answer to his question as to why he should be taxed to such an extent as to leave a surplus at all.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, as was requested by the learned Financial Secretary in the closing portion of his budget speech, I have given careful consideration to the budget which is now before the House. The actual recorded surplus in the books of 1101 amounts to Rs. 23 lakhs which is the highest figure. A State is not a Joint Stock Company or a domestic concern and any continued surplus is sure to be unwholesome to the general interests of the land. When our schoolmasters are poorly paid, when our police constables, Anchal peons, and court clerks are starving for want of fair wages, when the Development Departments are observing a religious fasting, it is quite unfair and improper, I would even say it is the height of unwisdom, to have such a large accumulated surplus. The Government are still continuing the tolls, liquor sales and reckless assessments in income tax without giving a fair listening to the assessees and, under these circumstances, it is not we that have an accumulated surplus but it is an accumulated surplus that has us. In my budget speech of the 1st August 1925 reported in Vol. VII p. 85 of the Council Proceedings, I stated :

"Two points of importance which I wish to suggest in this connection are (1) reproductive works involving heavy expenditure have to be invariably met by borrowed capital and borrowed capital only and (2) the Government should seek large financial relief by calling on local bodies to have a fair share of expenditure in local activities."

I have to state with great regret that neither of the points has engaged the consideration of Government. I am yet to understand the justifiability of drawing funds from our accumulated surplus for the sake of Trivandrum water supply and Trivandrum electric supply. I concede that both of them are some of the most imperative demands of the State and the two problems are being solved too late. I cannot understand how these are commercial undertakings. A commercial undertaking is one which is undertaken with a view to profit. One

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may wish to know whether these two things are undertaken with a view to profit. If that is so, I strongly object to them. Granted one responsible citizen and granted an efficient judiciary, it will be no wonder to me if such steps are restrained by an injunction. Fortunately, it is not a commercial undertaking though it is stated that it is so. These works being reproductive and being heavily expensive have to be met by borrowed capital and borrowed capital only and not from the general reserve. As to my second principle, *viz.*, seeking financial relief by calling on local bodies to share an expenditure in local activities, the Village Panchayat Regulation which was passed in 1100 remains a dead letter and nothing is done to increase and regulate the powers of the local bodies. I wish to say a word about the railways. The extension into the Trivandrum town is most welcome though most belated. I have lost hopes on railway income. Because, apart from other things, the opening of the Virudunagar-Tenkasi line may work like a torpedo in future and the possible loss contemplated in the Assembly address of 1101 cannot be ascertained by any person now. I do not go further. With regard to the question of tax receipts in Tamil in the Tamil taluks mooted, I wish to add a word. When the Tamil taluks give nearly Rs. 10 lakhs to the Land Revenue Department and want a receipt in Tamil, it is nothing but insult to discretion to deny it. I understand that tax receipts in Tamil are issued in Tinnevelly, in Malayalam in Malabar and in Telugu in Ganjam. This is a very silly matter and even if this prayer of the Tamil taluks is a cry in the wilderness, it is adding insult to injury. It is not a question of language. It is purely a question of fairness and commonsense. Before resuming my seat, I make bold to say that this year and last year are years of great depression and merchants have felt unsustainable difficulties and the money market has been persistently tight. A big spoon to the Industries Department and to the Co-operative Department would have afforded great relief but it is too late to repent.

MR. S SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Sir, two lines from the *Kural* of Tiruvallavanayanar will not be out of place as the two said lines contain the golden truth which, if followed, in budgeting our receipts and expenditure we will never go wrong. If all the members of this House are Tamil-knowing gentlemen, of course, including the worthy President, the *Kural* I am going to quote will be much appreciated; but I shall try to explain in Malayalam and English also. The *Kural* runs as follows:—

"செய்தக்கவலல செயக்கெடும்
செய்தக்கசெய்யாமையாலும் கெடும்."

In plain simple Tamil:

செய்யக்கூடாத ஒன்றைச் செய்தால் அதினல் அனேகம் தோஷங்கள் உண்டாகும். செய்யவேண்டியவற்றை செய்யாவிட்டால் அதிலும் தோஷம் உண்டாகும்.

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[Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.]

In Malayalam:

വഹിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത വിഷയങ്ങളെ വഹിച്ചാൽ അതിൽനിന്നും ലഭിക്കുന്നതു് ദോഷമെ ഒള്ളൂ. വഹിക്കാനുള്ളതു വഹിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ദോഷമെ ലഭിക്കും.

In English:

"Things which should not be done, if done, the result would be disastrous and things which should be done, if not done, here also the result would be disastrous."

Taking this maxim as the guide in preparing a budget of receipts and expenditure, whether the budget proceeds from a *pater-familias* or from Government, if we proceed to analyse the budget before us, we will be obliged to delete many items both under receipts and expenditure and add many more under both and for want of time I leave it to this House as well as the learned discretion of the Government to undertake budget on the lines suggested by me.

Before proceeding further, I am constrained to remark about the unpleasant necessity of the members on this side of the House remaining in Trivandrum for about 22 days though the actual sitting of this House is only for 11 days. At least, to many of us, this protracted session cannot but affect our business for no proper compensation and the Government will have to bear the unnecessary cost of not less than Rs 2,000 in the shape of batta for the Council members during their stay in Trivandrum for no fault of their own.

I have to congratulate the Financial Secretary on the presentation of a satisfactory surplus budget for the coming year, providing for increased expenditure without resorting to additional taxation. The budget estimates a small revenue surplus of Rs. 1·43 lakhs, treating the sale proceeds of Government lands amounting to Rs. 5·5 lakhs as capital receipts. While it is desirable to provide for a small revenue surplus, it is certainly ruinous to the people to contribute towards the building up of a heavy surplus balance, by annual revenue surpluses. We have a surplus balance of about Rs. 130 lakhs of which about Rs. 100 lakhs have been contributed by the revenues of the last 10 years (including the current year.) The budget for 1101 anticipated only a small revenue surplus of Rs. 3·74 lakhs, but the actual realised surplus was Rs. 23·01 lakhs, that is about Rs. 20 lakhs more. The budget for the current year estimated a small surplus of Rs. 3·62 lakhs, but the revised estimates are expected to result in a heavy surplus of Rs. 24·07 lakhs, which together with the receipts from the sale of Government lands will rise to about Rs. 28 lakhs. As remarked by the Financial Secretary, "a moderate reserve is, of course, essential," but the building up of a reserve by heavy annual revenue surpluses of Rs. 20 lakhs and more deserves to be condemned. Judging from the forecasts made in the previous year's budget and the actual realised surpluses, I venture to think that the revenue surplus at the close of the coming year will be not Rs. 1 lakh

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or Rs. 2 lakhs, but will be more than Rs. 10 lakhs. Having regard to the condition of our finances, I am strongly of opinion that there is no necessity for raising more revenues than are required for administrative purposes.

The economic condition of the people and their paying capacity do not warrant the raising of Rs. 223 lakhs every year. The level of taxation in Travancore is very high, as compared with the level obtaining in the Madras Presidency. Leaving out of account the indirect taxation in the form of customs on articles imported through British India and consumed within Travancore, the taxation per head of population is about Rs. 5·6, while the figures for Madras and Bengal are only Rs. 3·9 and Rs. 2·3 respectively. I would therefore suggest that the Government should seriously consider the desirability of lowering the level of taxation and at the same time improve the economic condition of the people.

I shall now refer to the programme of capital expenditure for the coming year provided for in the budget. The programme which I would call a Development programme comprises the construction of a railway extension from Chakkai to Tampanur with a new central station, a water supply scheme for Trivandrum and a scheme for the supply of electricity to Trivandrum. There is a lump provision of Rs. 12·95 lakhs for the railway extension, of Rs. 6·5 lakhs for the water supply scheme and Rs. 1·5 lakhs for the electric supply scheme. We have to consider carefully the merits of the three schemes in relation to their urgency, their importance and their reproductive capacity. Having regard to the sanitation and public health of Trivandrum and the increased demand for amenities, there can, I think, be no difference of opinion as to the urgency and the importance of the water supply scheme and the electric supply scheme. That these two schemes are capable of yielding an immediate return will not be disputed by anybody. I am of opinion that these schemes have not been adumbrated a day too early. It behoves the Government, therefore, to provide as large a sum as possible for these two schemes, so as to ensure their completion within the minimum possible period. The water supply scheme is estimated to cost about Rs. 25 lakhs and the electric supply scheme Rs. 2·85 lakhs. Although the electric supply scheme would cost only Rs. 2·85 lakhs, there is a provision of only Rs. 1·5 lakhs for the scheme in the budget for 1103. I fail to see why the scheme cannot be completed within one year and the entire estimated cost cannot be provided in the budget. The scheme as proposed, involving an oil engine installation, can I think, be completed within a period of 6 months and the moment it is completed, it will begin to yield a return. I would therefore strongly urge upon the attention of the Government the necessity for the allotment, in the budget of the full amount of Rs. 2·85 lakhs for the scheme. The provision of only Rs. 6·5 lakhs for the water supply scheme against the estimated cost of Rs. 25 lakhs leads me to presume that the scheme is to be spread over a period of four years or, at any rate, over a period of not less than 2 years. The prevalence of elephantiasis and other

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diseases in Trivandrum makes it incumbent upon the Government to carry out the scheme as expeditiously as possible. My suggestion is that it must be worked out before the end of 1104, and that at least 50 per cent of the estimated cost must be allotted in the budget, if the entire cost cannot be earmarked for the scheme. I believe that my friend, the Financial Secretary, will agree with me when I say that a remunerative scheme involving a capital outlay must be worked out within the minimum possible period if sufficient funds can be made available for the purpose. The question, therefore, arises how to find adequate funds for the purpose. For an answer to this question, we have to examine the railway extension scheme. I have given my careful consideration to all the aspects of the scheme and I have come to the conclusion that it is not an urgent work; it is not necessary; it is bound to be unproductive; the cost of the scheme is exorbitant and the capital sunk on it will be a dead investment. The railway line, as it exists, affords all the advantages of railway service to Trivandrum. The extension of the motor traffic has placed the railway station within easy reach. The extension of the line into the heart of the town will bring in its train a multitude of evils imperilling the sanitation of the town to a considerable extent. The location of a central station in Tampanur, a low-lying, water-logged area, is bound to have an unhealthy reaction on the public health of Trivandrum. The proposed extension is not calculated to stimulate the commercial activity of Trivandrum or to advance its commercial importance. Whatever trade Trivandrum commands is being carried on through the water route only and the extension scheme cannot divert it to the railway. The cost of the scheme is exceedingly high, being about Rs. 6·5 lakhs per mile, whereas the cost of the Quilon-Trivandrum line is below Rs. 1·5 lakhs per mile. I leave it to the Government to consider carefully whether it would be in the best interests of the State to invest Rs. 12·95 lakhs on a scheme which is bound to be absolutely unremunerative. I suggest therefore that the scheme be dropped completely and the amount allotted for the same be diverted for the water supply and electric supply schemes which are absolute necessities and must be carried through without delay.

The excise policy of the Government is vague and indefinite. It is stated to be 'to make it increasingly difficult for the consumer to obtain strong drink'. The policy should be the ultimate realisation of prohibition. No attempt has been made by the Government even towards reducing the number of liquor shops or towards reducing the consumption of liquor. The total number of arrack shops is stated to have been reduced by the magnificant number '*one*'. The consumption of liquor has been steadily rising. For the year 1101, there was an increase of 2,855 proof gallons of arrack and of 5,260 gallons of foreign liquor in consumption as compared with the figures for 1100. The Government should take early steps to make an experiment in prohibition in a convenient area or taluk. There is no justification for

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continuing the liquor traffic in Shencotta taluk when the adjoining taluk of Tenkasi in British India is under prohibition. We have to be thankful however to the Government for the observation made by the Financial Secretary that Government wish to be conservative in their estimate of revenue from toddy and liquor. I wish that the same spirit was displayed in actually raising revenues from toddy and liquor. It is distressing to note that, in practice, the Excise Department does not resist the temptation of raising as much revenue as possible.

The policy of the Government in relation to the salt factories has had the effect of stifling the indigenous salt industry, although it is only in its infancy. The policy must be to encourage the indigenous salt industry in such a way as to enable the licensees to manufacture sufficient salt to meet the demands of Travancore. Even during the infancy of the salt industry, it is showing signs of decadence. It is necessary to give some sort of protection to the industry if it is to flourish at all. As a first step, I suggest that the sale by Government, in the factories themselves, of their share of the salt must be completely given up. Salt licensees affected by the same circumstances should be accorded the same treatment. No sort of invidious distinction should be shown in the treatment of the licensees. The Government's policy of assuming the role of a merchant in stocking salt at depots and selling the same direct to consumers is an antediluvian policy which will not find favour with any civilised Government. Th provision of about Rs. 1,20,000 for transport charges of salt as against the provision of Rs. 30,000 only for the current year appears to be abnormal and unjustifiable.

The policy of recruiting officers for the executive branch from the judicial service is not commendable and must be completely abandoned.

The provision of Rs. 1,50,000 and of Rs. 20,000 for agricultural and industrial loans respectively are niggardly, and even such poor allotments are not completely disbursed. A liberal provision must be made for these two items, and the rules regulating the grant of loans must be worked liberally. Agricultural indebtedness and the problem of unemplyment are serious problems pressing for immediate solution. Provision must be made for the establishment of Land Mortgage Banks to afford facilities to agriculturists for easy long-term credit.

The provision of Rs. 9·73 lakhs for medical relief is unsatisfactory. Medical relief must be extended to the rural areas and ample provision has to be made for this purpose. The municipalities have not yet developed to such an extent as to be independent of Government support. There must be a liberal provision for making adequate grants to all the municipalities for a few years to come.

The proposal of the Government to undertake the supply of Malayalam readers themselves is an ill-advised one. The Government should not legitimately engage themselves in concerns of a commercial character and should gradually withdraw from such concerns when private agencies are available.

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The policy of levying tolls on vehicles using public roads has been condemned in several civilised countries. It is a real nuisance to tourists and travellers. It must be discarded without delay. Of the provision of Rs. 8'56 lakhs for communications, more than Rs. 5 lakhs are allotted for the Kottayam and Alwaye Divisions. There must be a more equitable distribution of the provision. The condition of the roads in Central Travancore as compared with that of the roads in North and South Travancore is very bad. Several important roads are not even metalled. Adequate provision must be made for the maintenance of roads and the opening of more roads in the Trivandrum and Quilon Divisions. The Trivandrum-Shencotta road must be made a completely metalled road.

The power to interpellate the Government conferred on the members of the Legislative Council has been considerably curtailed and even negatived by the vague and indefinite answers given by the Government members. In some cases, the answers given are inconsistent with previous answers to the same question. I would suggest that the heads of departments who are official members should be made to answer the questions relating to their departments.

The sale proceeds of buildings under item 23 of revenue and receipts have been treated as revenue receipts instead of as receipts of a capital nature. I should like to know why it has been so treated.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Sir, it is my pleasing duty to congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary on the prosperity budget which the Financial Secretary has been able to present before this Council. Although I do not admit that a prosperity budget is in itself indicative of the general prosperity of the country, yet it is a matter for gratification that the Government have got money which can be spent on the general welfare of the people. While one is glad that there is such a good balance to the credit this year, one is not in a position to feel equally glad at the provision made for expenditure in connection with the departments that are concerned with the development of the country as one might desire. We find that out of the big surplus, very little is proposed to be utilised for the Development Departments of Agriculture and Industry. We have often been complaining that these departments have been spending a large proportion of the money allotted in salaries and other contingent expenses. What we desire is that more money should be spent on works which would really spread practical knowledge among the people and encourage and induce them to adopt up-to-date experiments and methods in agriculture and industries. I fear that even now sufficient funds have not been provided for such purposes, and I am afraid that such schemes, when they are submitted by heads of departments, are often sent back by the Government on the ground that funds are not available. I think, Sir, that, at least when we find that we have got such a big balance, more might be done in the direction I have indicated.

The need for a tuberculosis sanatorium for Travancore has been more than once brought before the attention of the Government both

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in this Council as well as in other places. But although the scheme has been before the Government for some years past, we are sorry to note that very little progress has been made with regard to giving it any practical shape. This year also we do not find any provision in the budget even for making a start or taking any practical step in the matter of at least an investigation of the question. We hope, Sir, that considering the large number of tuberculosis patients of this country that have to go to Madanapalli and their difficulty in getting admission into that sanatorium and the consequent suffering and loss of life to many of the subjects of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, early steps will be taken to see that provision is made for a sanatorium for the poor sufferers.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the member give us an idea of the percentage of tuberculosis patients that we have got in Travancore?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I am not now in a position to give any idea as to the percentage of tuberculosis patients in Travancore.

We find from the budget, Sir, that, out of the surplus, additional provision has been made with regard to the P. W. D. and the Education Department. The former gets an additional sum of Rs. 5 lakhs; but it is regrettable to find that, out of these five lakhs of rupees, only one lakh has been provided for communications which ought to receive greater attention at the hands of the department than building and other works.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is an increase of one lakh of rupees in the allotment for communications.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): What I said was that, out of the five lakhs of rupees taken from the surplus by the P. W. D., only one lakh has been given to communications, which I think is not a good proportion. There is also no additional provision for taking up ryots' roads that have been opened by the people. There is also no additional provision for productive irrigation works in Central Travancore. With regard to the provision made for communications there has been complaint that the money has not been equitably distributed as regards the several parts of the country. We have, Sir, more than once pointed out the need for a board to advise the department in regard to the comparative claims of the different parts of the country in the matter of roads and other public works. At the time of the budget discussion last year, the Chief Engineer expressed himself in favour of getting help from such a board and it was hoped that something would have been done in the matter by this time. Now what happens is that only rich persons or influential persons or persons who are able to make much noise are able to get roads, while the poor, inarticulate thousands are left without any road, however much they might try for it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the member includes in that category the people of South Travancore?

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MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I think there are a large number of people belonging to that category, both in South as well as in North Travancore.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the member kindly give one particular instance where a road has been granted by the Government unjustifiably?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I am not in a position to give a concrete instance now.

Sir, this grievance can be remedied only by constituting a representative board to advise the department in this matter.

Then, out of the surplus, we find an additional provision made in the budget to the extent of Rs. 3·73 lakhs under education. Now, with regard to the educational policy of the Government, it has been again and again pointed out that due attention was not being paid by the Government to the need for educational reforms in the State and that the present system of education was not commensurate in its result with the large amount of money spent on it. This has again and again been emphasised in this Council as well as on the public platform and in the press. In spite of the fact that in this Council as well as in the Popular Assembly the Government made promises about considering the question of educational reform in the State, it is regrettable to find that no step has yet been taken in that direction. We hope, Sir, that without further delay the necessary steps will be taken to adjust the system of education to the needs of the country.

Another point with regard to the provision in the Education Budget is the treatment accorded to private institutions. Out of the Rs. 3·73 lakhs of additional provision in the budget, it is found that only Rs. ·5 of a lakh is intended for grants-in-aid of all sorts. Now, if we compare the quality and the quantity of educational work done by private institutions with Government institutions, we will find that this proportion is entirely unjustifiable. I have here a few statistics to show the inequitable nature of the allotment in the budget.

Now, taking English schools into consideration, I find that in 1101, in regard to private schools, the grant was Rs. 1,801 for buildings, Rs. 873 for appliances and Rs. 562 for furniture; whereas in the same year the amount spent by Government on Government schools amounted to Rs. 4,234 for books, Rs. 7,685 for appliances and Rs. 2,493 for furniture. When we consider the number of private institutions, we find that there are 31 High Schools and 114 Middle Schools with 29,584 pupils on the whole, while in the case of the Government institutions there are only 20 High Schools and 16 Middle Schools with not more than 15,734 pupils. These figures clearly show the inadequacy of the proportion of the grants given by Government to these schools.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Are there no rules to guide the distribution of these grants?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): There is no rule guiding the distribution as between private institutions and Government institutions.

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What I submit is that, comparing the number of students and the number of institutions belonging to private agencies with those belonging to the Government, the grants given to the private institutions are not at all adequate.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Are there no rules and, if there are any rules, has any departure been made from them?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I did not say that any departure has been made. What I say is that better rules should be framed. The cost for the Government per pupil in Government institutions is Rs. 13, whereas, in private schools, it is not more than Rs. 3 or Rs. 4. It was usual to show in the Administration Report the difference between the cost per pupil in the Government school and in the private school. But, conveniently, that information has been omitted in the Administration Report for the last year. What I submit is that there should be some scheme whereby a legitimate proportion in accordance with the quality and quantity of work done, is maintained between the money spent by the Government on private educational institutions and that spent on Government institutions. It will be conceded that, even though the Government are sparing in their grants, they are able to find Managers who are ready to come forward and help the Government in the matter of education. What I submit is that though apparently the Government are able to get the co-operation of private Managers, what really happens is that, while the Managers take care to satisfy the provisions of the Code in regard to buildings, appliances and furniture, in order that the Government should not withdraw recognition, the poor teachers in private schools are left under-paid. The Government are not at all anxious as to how the teacher is paid. They are anxious about buildings and appliances. If the private school Managers do not act up to the requirements of the Code in these matters, the grant or rocognition would be withdrawn. The result is that while there are large number of institutions with good buildings and equipments, there is no encouragement for real work being done in any of them, though there is a fine show.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does the member think that the Education Department should have control over the pay of the teachers in private schools?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I have no objection if a scheme like that is formulated without, at the same time, prejudicially affecting the Managers.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will you not be playing too much into the hands of the department if the pay of the teachers also is to be controlled by the department?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): It need not necessarily be so. It depends on the scheme. I have not got a definite scheme before me now. I do not definitely say that the department should have control over the pay of the teachers. I only say that if the Government think it necessary they might formulate a shceme in consultation with the Managers.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it the member's idea that there should be no difference between the pay of the teachers in private schools and those in Government schools?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I do not say that there should be no difference. My point is that there should not be so much difference.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What is the sort of difference that should exist, according to the member?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I say that there should not be so much difference and that, gradually, an approximation should be made.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If the pay of the private school teacher is to be approximated to the pay of the Government school teacher, why should these institutions be left to private agencies? Why not the Government take them over?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): If the Government think that, in the interests of education, it would be better if they take over the private schools to their control and management, by all means let them do it. There is no objection to that. I do not say that the Government should increase the pay of the teachers in private schools and make it equal to that of the teachers in Government schools. My only point is that, even after adjusting the difference in an equitable manner, there will be a great gain to the Government when they compare this expenditure with the cost of conducting Government institutions. I am prepared to admit that there should be a margin of difference between the pay of the teachers in the two sets of institutions.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why should there be any difference at all?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): There is no need; but we have not got money enough to avoid the difference altogether.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Does the member think that there is money now to equalise the pay?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): What I say is that, considering the fact that the work done by both is the same, the money that we have got to spare should be distributed more equitably.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it equity that there should be difference between the pay of the teachers in these two institutions?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): It is not equity, but it may be necessary to some extent under the present circumstances.

It is also to be noted, Sir, that, while in these days so much emphasis is given to the need for boarding homes and hostels, although there are 28 boarding homes for English schools for boys, 9 for girls' schools and 8 for vernacular schools, there is no provision for any grant to any of these institutions, and there is no scheme whereby any grant

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could be given to them. It is highly necessary that a scheme should be formulated early, whereby the work of the private agencies in the matter of providing boarding homes could be encouraged by Government.

Then, I wish to speak a few words about the Training College. We know, Sir, that the Training College is a costly institution. The cost of it is mainly made up by stipends given to teachers who are trained. It is possible to find out a scheme whereby the expenditure on stipends can be reduced. It is stated in the Administration Report that the non-stipendiary students should not be admitted until all the teachers in the Government or private institutions are trained. It will be running in a vicious circle, because, every year, untrained teachers are taken into schools, and it would not be possible to admit the non-stipendiary students after all the teachers in the shcools are trained. I believe there is enough of competition among graduates to enter the Education Departments so that it is possible for the Government to stipulate that the graduates should get themselves professionally qualified before they are admitted into the department. I don't mean that the present untrained teachers in the service should be made to suffer seriously owing to any change made in the present system. And there might come a time, say, within ten years, when graduates would see that they are professionally qualified before they seek service in the department.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Sir, the speech of the Financial Secretary is singularly remarkable for its simplicity and clearness of presentation. The graphs and charts have, as it were, visualised the dry budget figures. The different aspects of the budget have been elaborately discussed by the previous speakers, and I don't wish to travel the same ground over again. I shall confine my observations to certain general features of administration.

A general survey of our income and expenditure during the last few years discloses that, apart from small increase or diminution in the various items, there has been no serious or effective change of policy. We are, I am inclined to think, confining our attention to the routine work of every day life without devoting much thought to improve that life and make it fuller. (Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: *Louder please*). I do not for a moment hold that it is an easy task, but I am inclined to think that it is our duty as the guardians of the welfare of the State to attempt to promote that welfare as much as possible. It would be a platitude to say that we have been for the last several years suffering from a surplus budget. I am not going to dilate on the merits and defects of a surplus budget. They are only too well-known to be discussed in detail. But a surplus budget should give us time to put our house in order and effect improvements in our life. We are fortunately not put to the necessity of devising ways and means for making our income sufficient to meet our wants. We have not to raise a national or international loan. We have not been constrained

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to tap the monetary resources of the subjects of the State. Purely from the standpoint of a financier, this is a highly satisfactory state of affairs. But I strongly emphasise that this is the time for us to think of improving our national prosperity. Is the excess of our revenue over the expenditure in any way an index of the prosperity of the people? Does the net increase of Rs. 28·2 lakhs during the current year in any way connote the material and moral welfare of the people? I am sorry, it does not. On the other hand, poverty, misery and discontent are only on the increase. The Excise Department and the income we derive from it are the best indication of this. With poverty and indigence goes the drink evil. In spite of various efforts in diverse quarters to remove the habits of our people, they have not changed to any extent. This year's income from excise rose by Rs. 4 lakhs above the estimate made this time last year. For 1103, the Financial Secretary has provided Rs. 1·85 lakhs less under excise as he wishes to be conservative in his estimate of revenue from toddy and country liquor. It is a very pious wish, but it remains to be seen whether the wish is going to be gratified. Perhaps, it was such a wish last year also which made the actual income from excise Rs. 4 lakhs in excess of the budget estimate. I wish that in this matter the Government would take some initiative as private efforts are not likely to meet with any appreciable success. Though it would be a self-denying measure, I think it is worth the attempt. The Government can do much in mitigating this evil. I have often thought that it would be a highly beneficial measure if license is not granted to open shops in crowded places and towns. I do not know whether all the members of this House are aware of the number of arrack shops situated in the capital. I was for my own part not a little surprised and shocked when some time back a shop was opened within a furlong of this hall almost in front of the public offices. I think we would be better off if the shops in the capital, for that matter in the centres of all our towns, are stopped. These shops encourage the regular drunkards and induce sober men to taste the bottle. The matter deserves serious consideration.

When thinking of the material condition of our people, I have felt that our Developement Departments could do much to promote our prosperity. We are essentially an agricultural people, but it is too well-known that our peasants carry on their cultivation in primitive methods. Can they not be induced to change their ways and adopt civilised methods? I grant that our peasants are highly conservative and most averse to changes of any sort. But still a paternal Government can, by actual sympathy, demonstration and financial help by way of small loans, induce them to adopt better ways and increase the yield of the soil. In order that this may be done, we require efficient and energetic officers who would go about and work among the people and show them the benefits of new methods by their sympathy and readiness to render assistance.

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Our industries are again essentially agricultural, and they too are in an unsatisfactory condition. The people unfortunately have neither the capital nor the spirit of enterprise to carry on industries. It would be a step in ameliorating unemployment if the Government would encourage our educated young men to start small industries by giving them loans and affording facilities. Another equally beneficial measure already suggested by some of the previous speakers would be to disafforest portions of our forest and give them to cultivators. Passing on to public works, I am constrained to remark that they are not quite satisfactory. Equally important with the construction of electric supply works and railways is the construction of roads and canals in the rural parts. It is but well-known that some of the taluks which contribute highly to the revenue of the State have few or no roads. There is an impression among the country people that in Travancore the metropolis is swallowing the State. It is the duty of the Government to wipe away that impression. The works I referred to would require only a proportionately small expenditure, while it would give considerable satisfaction and convenience to large sections of the people. To persons unaccustomed to town life, electric lighting would appear a luxury, while a road or a canal would be an utmost necessity. Regarding the maintenance of roads, I am sorry it is done most unsatisfactorily. The Trivandrum main road, for example, is so full of ruts that walking during rainy days is very difficult.

Our educational activities again require much consideration. It is high time to introduce compulsory primary education at least in a few select areas. Although Travancore State occupies a comparatively high position in the matter of general education, much remains to be done. There are several taluks which are not sufficiently provided with primary schools, not to speak of High Schools. In the matter of girls' education, greater attention has to be devoted. While boys can walk a long distance, girls will have to be given facilities for schooling nearer home.

Technical and vocational education has to be considerably improved. More carpentry, spinning and other technical schools should be started. They would solve the problem of unemployment to some extent. One or two schools in the whole State may do little or no good at all except for adding to the pages of the Administration Report. There is also scope for a few more commercial schools of the Alleppey type. Although their degrees may not be of much value in our own State, they would facilitate our enterprising young men to seek their fortunes outside.

I am glad that provision is made for the opening of seven new dispensaries in the coming year. I would have been gladder if some more encouragement were given to the indigenous systems of medicine. The hospitals are for the rich, while the poor would have their ailings cured only in the *Vaidyasalas*. I do not want to make any comparison between the efficacy of the different systems of medicine. But it would be accepted on all hands that the native physicians cater to the needs of a considerably larger number of persons than the Allopathic

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[Mr. P. Habeeb Mahomed.]

doctors. Further, by encouraging the indigenous system of medicine, the Government would be providing means of livelihood for a section of the people. Though the expenses on the indigenous system would be comparatively small, the returns by way of satisfaction to the people would be considerably high.

It is highly gratifying to know that the Government contemplate to improve the pay of the Anchal peons. But it is to be regretted that they have not had time to consider the report submitted by the Vernacular school teachers' committee.

An item of revenue which is causing great inconvenience and difficulty to a considerable section of His Highness' subjects is that derived from P. W. D. tolls. This Council has given its unanimous verdict on the question of abolishing it, and it is a matter for surprise that the Government have not paid any attention to its considered opinion. The income derived is not very much, while the suffering and annoyance caused are immense. The poor tapioca dealer or the wood-cutter of the mountains has to share his petty profits with the toll collector. It would really be an act of charity if it is abolished at an early date.

A means of increasing the revenue which would not affect the poor mass but would at the same time yield a considerable income would be to impose a tax on rubber. Any system of taxation should be progressive, and this is such a one.

In conclusion, I have only to point out that the Government often lose sight of the larger interests of the State, namely, the improvement of the material and moral condition of the vast mass. Let us hope they will in future devote at least as much attention as the present state of affairs demands to this very important problem when framing the State Budget.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, at the outset, I should like to congratulate the Financial Secretary on the clear and the lucid manner in which he has explained the budget proposals for the next year. He particularly deserves congratulations as this is his first budget speech. It augurs well for the new Financial Secretary that his very first budget happens to be one in which we are dealing with record figures, both on the revenue and expenditure sides.

The outstanding feature of the budget seems to me to be the presence of a keen sense of responsibility on the part of the Government in safeguarding and conserving the revenues of the State and boldly utilising them for schemes of public utility. It is noteworthy that the two years of administration, for which period, you, Sir, are fully responsible, brought in the largest revenue and expended the biggest amounts on the administration. By the close of this year, we will have added, in three years, not less than 64 lakhs of rupees to the State Balances and increased it by 80 per cent. This result has been achieved without imposing any fresh taxes on the people on the one hand and without stinting expenditure on the other. The abolition of export duty on tea in British

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India has been almost a windfall to us and it is going to give us increasing customs revenue in future years. The Government seemed to have purchased 60 lakhs of rupees worth of Government of India Promissory Notes below their face value and added up the difference as *premia* on the revenue side of the account and thereby increased it by Rs. 6½ lakhs. This item of revenue is clearly fictitious. It would have been more reasonable to have left this increase out of account, until it could actually be realised when the British Government would redeem the securities at face value at maturity. We have now unnecessarily inflated our assets and we may have to reduce them if we are compelled, by circumstances beyond our control, to sell our securities in the market before the period of maturity for anything below their face value.

Apart from the two adventitious circumstances mentioned already, the Government could not have helped the increase of revenue in any one year. Our system of taxation is not based upon an annual imposition of taxes determined according to the requirements of the year. But when the revenue is rapidly increasing year by year, the Government have a clear duty to see whether they are justified in collecting so much revenue for accumulating revenue balances. In any civilised State, an increase in revenue must be proportional to the increase in the prosperity of the people. Does this rapid increase in our revenue receipts indicate a corresponding rise in the prosperity of the people? There are sufficient data available which would show that a large portion of the population, mainly engaged in the production and distribution of articles of export, was faring very badly these years on account of the very low prices our articles of export were fetching in foreign markets. There is consequently great distress among cocoanut cultivators, and producers of coir yarn and coir goods and persons employed in other cottage industries. The indigenous merchant and exporter to foreign countries finds it extremely difficult to market his goods to any advantage. The Government would not move their little finger to help him. Under the circumstances, it would be wrong to say that we are prospering in proportion to the increase in the Government receipts. When the increase in revenue was found to be continuous, the Government had no justification in keeping the taxation at the same level. They ought to have afforded relief to the people by remitting some of the irksome taxes. There was hardly any justification for Government opposing Mr. Sivatanu Pillai's resolution regarding reduction of the Anchal rates. It was only a matter of a few thousands of rupees, while the Government were accumulating enormous reserves in the State coffers.

Coming to the expenditure side of the budget, I must confess to a feeling of some anxiety on acoount of the abnormal rise in expenditure proposed for 1103, over the revised estimates for the current year. It is a sharp rise of Rs. 16 ½ lakhs. I should think that this rise is much too high for a single year. Though we cannot avoid increases in revenue receipts, the expenditure is perfectly within our control. In a normal year, we should not increase our expenditure beyond a normal increase in revenue. Further, education and public works receive more

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[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

than two-thirds of this increased allotment. It has been often urged on the attention of the Government, in this House and elsewhere, that expenditure on education—especially collegiate and secondary—must be strictly brought under control. No doubt, we have to provide increasing allotments year after year for the commitments we have already made. But that is no reason why we should make further commitments unless they are absolutely necessary and unavoidable. The provision for an increased expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs in Public Works Department also deserves careful scrutiny. It has to be remembered that a large portion of this increase of Rs. $16\frac{1}{3}$ lakhs is recurring expenditure and would thus entail increasing provision in the coming years.

I might also say a word about the Government incurring capital expenditure not charged to revenue. The town extension of the Quilon-Trivandrum railway is an extremely costly undertaking in proportion to its advantage. The proposal to spend large sums of Government money on the two schemes for supplying electricity and water to the town of Trivandrum stands on a different footing. In the first place, they are reproductive works and the well-recognised principle is that in carrying out such schemes, funds must be found by borrowing and not by appropriating the revenues collected from the people for current expenditure. The present generation should not be taxed for the benefit of the future generations. In the second place, the Government have absolutely no justification in spending the taxes collected from all parts of the State for increasing the comforts and conveniences of the Trivandrum town dwellers. The Government formally recognised this principle when they advisedly brought into existence local bodies like Municipal Councils in the State. They have been given power to raise taxes for public utility. They are also given power to borrow money whenever these funds are not ample for executing large public works. We do not find any reason why the Trivandrum Municipality should be so irresponsive to its legitimate and statutory duties and responsibilities to its rate-payers. The Government have now interfered and rendered them quite irresponsible. It is clearly wrong to the general tax payer for the Government to have undertaken to spend such vast sums for the benefit of the Trivandrum town dwellers. The Government have not told us what extra ordinary circumstances compelled them to oust the jurisdiction of the municipality in these two directions. In consideration of the fact that this is our capital city, a very liberal grant might have been allowed to the municipality for executing these two schemes and the services of the expert Government officers might also have been placed at their disposal. Further, more information on the schemes ought to have been furnished to us. For instance, are the town dwellers to pay for the water and electricity they may get by the help of these schemes? If they are to pay, are they to pay the Government or the municipality? On these two points, the non-official members of this House should like to have definite information from the Financial Secretary. I am afraid, on the question of taxation, the

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Government and the municipality are not likely to agree easily. I might also here remind the Government of the existence of other municipalities in the State who might ask the Government to undertake for them similar schemes of public utility of a less ambitious character.

In one sense, the observations made by Mr. A. K. Pillai yesterday regarding the true nature of our surplus budgets are quite justified. If this is a prosperity budget, is it an indication of the prosperity of the masses? If they have large surpluses in hand, are they proposing to spend even a portion of it for introducing compulsory education at least in selected areas? It would have really benefited the poor. The rich man's children are all in school and the reluctance of the Government to accept the principle of compulsory elementary education does not affect him. It would have resulted in dispelling ignorance and illiteracy from humble homes in the country, and that is the reason why it does not commend itself to the Government. The Administration Report of the Education Department refers to the existence of 17 schools which are still not open to all classes. The Government and the department ought to be ashamed to have to make such a confession. It also exemplifies the great indifference with which the department and the Government are viewing questions in which backward and depressed communities are alone interested. The agitation for throwing open all schools to all classes of people has been started more than 30 or 40 years ago. Either these 17 schools could be thrown open in 17 days or these schools could be shifted to more convenient places in 17 months. But how many seventeen months have elapsed since the institution of these enquiries and reports? The Government could have spent some money and opened new schools. I think no civilised Government would tolerate so indefensible a system and I would not be surprised if the department would continue taking vigorous steps during a whole generation and yet leave behind most of these schools in the same position and I would not also be surprised if the learned members of this House like the learned Deputy President continue advancing analogies of all classes running the race of life on equal terms.

Mr. A. K. Pillai's reference to the exploitation of the country, of the masses of the people by the Government is also interesting. Even the Congress movement led on by Mahatma Gandhi is characterised by Mr. Saklatwala and others as a scheme for the exploitation of the masses by the capitalists and the intelligentsia. If Government is an institution for the exploitation of the country, officers of Government in their turn exploit the Government and directly exploit the masses for their own purposes. This double exploitation by the officers is nothing more or less than the exploitation of the whole country and its masses by an army of men who belong exclusively to a few privileged communities. Though Mr. A. K. Pillai is against Government exploitation, he has no objection to the latter kind of exploitation.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I protest; it is not true.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am glad to hear it. He does not view with horror or disgust the situation in the country which renders it possible for men of two or three communities exclusively to

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[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

swallow Rs. 80 lakhs of public money as salaries. Confining the recruitment to public service practically to a few communities leads to this direct and indirect exploitation of the poor and unprivileged classes. The greater the difference between the status of the Government servant and the poor villager, the easier it becomes for the officer concerned to bleed him with impunity in a hundred and one ways. I would therefore request the Government to keep this circumstance in mind and try to evolve a scheme of retrenchment by which some measure of relief may be afforded from this cruel exploitation.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuza*): രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ആയവ്യയ കണക്കുകളെ പറ്റി വിമർശിക്കുമ്പോൾ രണ്ടുപ്രധാനസംഗതികളാണ് എന്റെ മനസ്സിൽ വരുന്നതു്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും, പ്രജകളിൽ എല്ലാവിഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും സംഭരിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ധനത്തെ രാജ്യത്തിലെ എല്ലാഭാഗങ്ങളിലെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കും പ്രജാവിഭാഗങ്ങളുടെയും ക്ഷേമത്തിനുമായി സമഭാവനയോടുകൂടി വ്യയം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നും രാജ്യത്തിലെ മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ വലിയഭാഗം നൽകുന്നവരും ഭൂരിപക്ഷക്കാരുമായ നാട്ടുംപുറത്തെ കൃഷീവലന്മാരുടെ ആവശ്യത്തെ പ്രഥമമായി കരുതി ചിലവുചെയ്യണമെന്നുമാണു്. രാജ്യത്തിലെ മുതലെടുപ്പു വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്നും, ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസൌകര്യം ഇവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ തുക ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും കാണുന്നതു എത്രയും സന്തോഷാവഹമായ കാര്യമാണു്. അഞ്ചുലക്ഷം രൂപാ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം വകയ്ക്കും ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം രൂപാ ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം വകയ്ക്കും കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവുചെയ്യാൻ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു വളരെ ആശ്വാസകരംതന്നെ. എന്നാൽ മുൻപറഞ്ഞ തത്വമനുസരിച്ചു് ഈ തുകയെ വിനിയോഗിക്കണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കിവിടെ പ്രസ്ഥാവിക്കാനുള്ളതു്.

മൊത്തത്തിൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഉൾഭാഗങ്ങൾ ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യമില്ലാതേയും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസൌകര്യം ഇല്ലാതേയും കിടക്കുകയാണു്. പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും വടക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെഉൾഭാഗങ്ങൾ വളരെ ശോചനീയമായ നിലയിലാണു് കിടക്കുന്നതു. ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യംവകയ്ക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറുചെലവു് അധികം ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലാണു്. തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഒരു ചതുരശ്രമൈൽ വിസ്താരത്തിനു് ഒരു മൈൽറോഡുവീതമുണ്ടെന്നും, ഉത്തര തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ റോഡുകൾ വളരെ കുറവായതുകൊണ്ടു റോഡുകൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർ

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ണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രമങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുവരുന്നു എന്നും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ഡയറക്ടറിയിൽ പ്രസ്ഥാവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ബഡ്ജറു് നോക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം അതനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവത്തിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നുകാണാം. ഒരുലക്ഷത്തി എണ്ണത്തയ്യായിരം രൂപാ പുതിയ റോഡുകൾക്കായി ബഡ്ജററിൽ ചേത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതിൽ ൨൫,൦൦൦ രൂപാ മൂവാറുപുഴനിന്നും നേര്യമംഗലം വഴി പള്ളിവാതൽ തോട്ടത്തിലേക്കു് ഒരു റോഡു വെട്ടുന്നതിനു ചേത്തിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാതെ മൂവാറുപുഴ സബ്ഡിവിഷനിലേക്കു് ഒന്നുമില്ല. ഇതു തോട്ടക്കാരുടെ ഉപയോഗത്തിനല്ലാതെ ആ താലൂക്കു നിവാസികൾക്കായുള്ളതല്ല. മൂവാറുപുഴ സബ്ഡിവിഷനിൽപെട്ട മൂവാറുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ എവിടെയെങ്കിലും പുതൻ റോഡുകൾ ഒരിഞ്ചെങ്കിലും വെട്ടുന്നതിനു പണം ബഡ്ജററിൽചേക്കാത്തതുപരിതാപകരംതന്നെ. പുതിയ ചീഫ്എൻജിനീയർ അവർകൾ അവിടെ സക്കീട്ടുവന്നപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അവിടത്തെ അസൌകര്യങ്ങളെയെല്ലാം പറഞ്ഞുമനസ്സിലാക്കുകയും അദ്ദേഹം മര്യാദയോടെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതിനും സാധിച്ചു തരുന്നതിനും സന്നദ്ധത പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കയും ബഡ്ജററിൽ ചില പുതിയ വേലകൾക്കു കുറെ പണം അടുത്ത ആണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ഇതിലേക്കായി കൂടുതൽ തുക ചേക്കാമെന്നു വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്കയും ചെയ്തു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ വാഗ്ദാനം അനുസരിച്ചു പണം ചേത്തുകാണുന്നില്ല. പ്രജാസഭയിലും നിയമസഭയിലും തുടൻ പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ഇതിനുമുമ്പിലത്തെ ചീഫ്എൻജിനീയർ പല റോഡുകൾക്കും എസ്റ്റിമേററ് തയ്യാറാക്കാൻ കീഴദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു ഉത്തരവു കൊടുത്തു. എന്നാൽ അവർ എസ്റ്റിമേറു തയ്യാറാക്കാതെ ഉദാസീനന്മാരായിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം–എസ്റ്റിമേറു തയാറാക്കാതെ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ചേക്കാൻ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയക്കു സാധിക്കയില്ലല്ലൊ–അതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയക്കു ബഡ്ജററിൽ പണം ചേക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവന്നതു്. ചീഫ്എൻജിനീയക്കു ഞങ്ങളോടു് അനുഭാവമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അല്ലാതെ കീഴദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഉദാസീനതയെപ്പററി ഗൌനിക്കണം. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ പുത്തനായിട്ടുള്ള വേലകൾക്കു പണം ചേത്തിട്ടില്ലാ എന്നു മാത്രമല്ലാ, കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തിൽ ചേത്തിരുന്ന തുക ലാപ്സായിപ്പോകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): ലാപ്സാകാൻ കാരണമെന്താണു്?

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MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): അതിലേക്കു കാരണമെന്താണെന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനോടു ചോദിച്ചു മറുപടി വരുത്തണം. ഞാൻ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ചോദ്യം ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിനു മറുപടി പറയുമ്പോൾ അറിയാം. കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഉദാസീനതയാണെന്നതന്നെയാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastiswaram*): ഇപ്പോൾ അവിടെ ഒരു റോഡിലും വണ്ടിയേയും ആളുകളേയും കാണുന്നില്ലല്ലോ; അതിനു കാരണമെന്താണ്?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): ഇപ്പോൾ നോക്കിയാൽ അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ; അവിടെ ചെന്നു നോക്കിയാൽ അറിയാം.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastiswaram*): അവിടെ പോയി നോക്കിയിട്ടും കണ്ടിട്ടില്ലാ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): വണ്ടിയും ആളുകളും പോകാത്ത സ്ഥലത്തോ സമയങ്ങളിലോ ആയിരിക്കാം നോക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്. ചില റോഡുകൾ കുറെദൂരം നന്നായിട്ടും കുറെദൂരം അധികം താഴ്ചയുള്ള ചെളിനിറഞ്ഞ കുഴികളായിട്ടും കിടക്കുകയാണ്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സ്ഥലളിൽ വണ്ടികൾ പോകാറില്ലാ. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴനിന്നും എറണാകുളംവരെയുള്ള റോഡ് വളരെ മോശമായിക്കിടക്കുന്നു. കുഴത്തിനു താഴ്ചയുള്ളകുഴികൾ ഈ റോഡുകളിൽ ഉണ്ട്. ഈ റോഡിനെ നന്നാക്കേണ്ടതു് എത്രയും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ഈവഴിക്കു ഇപ്പോൾ വണ്ടി പോകാൻപാടില്ല.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിലും കൂടുതൽ തുക ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കായി ചിലവുചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിന്നായി പറയത്തക്ക ചിലവൊന്നും ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ഇതുവരെ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴും അവിടത്തേക്കു ചിലവുചെയ്യാൻ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ വേണ്ട സംഖ്യ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നില്ലാ. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ൧൫൦ സ്കൂളുകൾ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ളതിൽ മൂവാറ്റുപുഴതാലൂക്കിൽ ൭ സ്കൂളുകളും തൊടുപുഴതാലൂക്കിൽ ൫ സ്കൂളുകളും മാത്രമെയുള്ളു. എന്നാൽ തിരുവല്ലാതാലൂക്കിൽ ൩൬ സ്കൂളുകൾ ഉണ്ട്. കോട്ടയത്തു് ൫൦-ം, തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു ൫൯-ം, നെയ്യാറ്റിൻകര ൫൩ സ്കൂളുകൾ ആണ് ഉള്ളതു. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴയും തൊടുപുഴയും കൂടി ൧൦൦ സ്കൂളുകൾമാത്രം—

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): തിരുവല്ലായിലെ സ്കൂളുകൾ ജനങ്ങൾ കെട്ടികൊടുത്തതാണെന്നു മെമ്പർക്കു് അറിയാമോ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): ധാരാളം സ്കൂളുകൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അനുവദിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുണ്ടായതിനുശേഷമാണ് അവർ സ്വയം സ്കൂളുകൾ കെട്ടുന്നതിനു തുടങ്ങിയത്. ഞങ്ങൾക്കും അതുപോലെ ചെയ്താൽ ഞങ്ങളും സ്കൂളുകൾ കെട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കാൻ സന്നദ്ധരാകും. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ മൂവാറ്റുപുഴയും തൊടുപുഴയും ഉള്ള സ്കൂളുകൾ മിക്കതും ഞങ്ങൾതന്നെ കെട്ടിയതാണ്.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞിതൊമ്മൻ തോവാളതാലൂക്കിനെപ്പറ്റി എന്തുകൊണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞില്ലാ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): ഞാൻ എന്തെല്ലാം പറയുന്നു എന്നു് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം തീരുമ്പോഴേ അറിയൂ.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): തോവാള താലൂക്കിലെ സ്കൂളുകളുടെ എണ്ണം അറിയാമോ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): അതിനെല്ലാം എന്റെകയ്യിൽ റിക്കാർഡുകൾ ഉണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ എല്ലാ താലൂക്കിലേയും കാര്യം പറയാൻ സമയമില്ല.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിലും ഗതാഗതവിഷയത്തിലും ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ—വിശേഷിച്ചു മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ മുതലായ ഉൾനാടുകളിലെ—സ്ഥിതി ഏറ്റവും പരിതാപകരമാണു്. ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഗാഢമായി പതിയണം. അതിലേക്കു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറധ്യക്ഷന്മാരെ നിഷ്കർഷയായി ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തുകയും അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു വേണ്ടതു നടത്തിക്കുകയും വേണം. ഞങ്ങളുടെ നില ഈ വിധത്തിലാണല്ലൊ എന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ സങ്കടമുണ്ടു്. സഹപൌരന്മാർ സൌകര്യമനുഭവിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു സ്പർദ്ധയില്ലാ. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം ഇവകൾ ഇല്ലാതെ ഒരു ദേശത്തിനും അഭിവൃദ്ധി ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ലല്ലോ.

കൃഷിസേചനവിഷയത്തിലും ഞങ്ങൾക്കു പറയത്തക്ക യാതൊന്നും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലാ. കോതയാർ ഇറിഗേഷൻവേലകൾക്കു് കോടിക്കണക്കിനു പണം ചിലവുചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു മാത്രമല്ലാ ഇപ്പോഴും വലിയ തുകകൾ ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): അഗസ്തീശ്വരം, തോവാള ഈ താലൂക്കിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ ക്രൂരതൽ കരം കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു മെമ്പർക്കു് അറിയാമൊ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): കൃഷിക്കു കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിതന്നാൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കും കൂടുതൽനികുതി കൊടുക്കാൻ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. നികുതി സന്തോഷത്തോടുകൂടി കൊടുക്കുന്നതല്ലാതെ നികുതി കുറക്കണമെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ പറയാറില്ല. ഇറിഗേഷൻവേലകൾക്കു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട സഹായം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനപേക്ഷയുണ്ട്. കല്ലും മണ്ണും വീണു നികന്നു കിടക്കുന്ന കുളങ്ങളെ താഴ്ത്തി കൃഷിക്കുപയുക്തമാക്കിത്തരണം. ജനസംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കൃഷിയേ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്താഞ്ഞാൽ ദാരിദ്ര്യം വർദ്ധിക്കും. കൃഷിസ്ഥലം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു പടിഞ്ഞാറുചെന്നാൽ അറബിക്കടലും കിഴക്കു റിസർവ്വ് ബൌണ്ടറിയും രാജ്യനിവാസികളെ തടയുന്നു.

റിസർവ്വനങ്ങളെ കുറെ ഒഴിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കു സൌകര്യപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊടുക്കണം. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൂടുതൽതുക കാണുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ജനസംഖ്യയും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്നു വിചാരിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാ. രാജ്യത്തെ പ്രധാനജനവിഭാഗം കൃഷിക്കാരാണു്. ഇതു കർഷകന്മാരുടെ രാജ്യമാകുന്നു. കൃഷിക്കാരെ വിസ്മരിച്ചു യാതൊരഭിവൃദ്ധിയും രാജ്യത്തിനു വരുത്താൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. എല്ലാഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാരും കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ ലാക്കാക്കി പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം. രാജ്യത്തു് ആർക്കെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോൾ സങ്കടം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് അധികവും കൃഷിക്കാർക്കാണു്. കൈക്കൂലിതുടങ്ങിയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ അഴിമതികളുടെ ഫലം അധികവും അനുഭവിക്കുന്നതു നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരാണു്. വിദ്യ കുറഞ്ഞ കൃഷിക്കാർ കല്ലിലും മുള്ളിലും ചേറിലും നടന്നു വേലചെയ്തു്, വെയിലും മഞ്ഞുമേറ്റു്, കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിച്ചു് വലിയ തുക നികുതിയും കൊടുത്തു് എല്ലാവരുടേയും ക്ഷേമത്തെ പരിപാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന ഇവരെയാണു് സാധാരണ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ചവുട്ടി മർദ്ദിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഉഭയനാടുകളിലുള്ള താണതരം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പോലും സാധു കൃഷിക്കാരെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ആരും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല. അവർ എവിടെ ചെന്നു സങ്കടം പറയും? കഷ്ടം! അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി എത്ര പരിതാപകരം! ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കൈക്കൂലി, വഗ്ദീയപക്ഷപാതം ഇവകൊണ്ടു കർഷകന്മാർക്കാണു് അധികം ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ കാരണത്താലാണു കൃഷി ഒരു മാനമായ തൊഴിലല്ലെന്നു ജനതയുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഒരു വിചാരം അംകുരിച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

കൃഷി കൂടുതൽ ലാഭകരമാക്കുന്നതിനു കൃഷിഡയറക്ടർ ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എങ്കിലും സാരമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാ. കൃഷിസ്ഥലം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ കൃഷിക്കു് അഭിവൃദ്ധി

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ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ കഴിയുമെന്നതോന്നുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിലെ മൂന്നിലൊരുഭാഗം റിസർവ്വനമായി കിടക്കുന്നു. അവയിൽ ജനവാസസ്ഥലങ്ങളോടു് അടുത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ ഒഴിച്ചു് ഒരേക്കർവീതം അധഃകൃതക്കു തറവിലക്രടാതെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം. അവക്കു് അടുത്തകാലത്താണു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അവർ ഉണർന്നുവന്നപ്പോൾ അവക്കു ഭൂമിയുമില്ല, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവുമില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അവക്കു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു തരിശുഭൂമികളിൽ നിന്നും ഓരോ ഏക്കർവീതം പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകതന്നെ വേണം. പിന്നെ എല്ലാ വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിലും ഭൂസ്വത്തില്ലാത്തവക്കു് അഞ്ചേക്കർവീതംഅതാതുതാലൂക്കിലെ മിനിമം' തറവിലക്കുപതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം. ബാക്കിയുള്ള സ്ഥലം പത്തോ, പതിനഞ്ചോ ഏക്കർ അടങ്ങിയ ബ്ലാക്കുകളായി തിരിച്ചുലേലം ചെയ്യണം. ഇങ്ങിനെ റിസർവിൽ നിന്നും തരിശുഭൂമികളെ ഒഴിപ്പിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കായിട്ടു കൊടുക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഭാവിസ്ഥിതി വളരെ പരിതാപകരമായിരിക്കും. ജനസംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതനുസരിച്ചു് അതിനൊന്നിനു കൃഷിസ്ഥലം കുറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നു. കൃഷിയല്ലാതെ തൊഴിലുമില്ല. കൃഷിസ്ഥലം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ വനം വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുവന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ പട്ടിണികിടക്കയേ ഒള്ളൂ.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ഇവക്കു സ്ഥലം കൃഷിക്കായിട്ടു കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയൊ അതല്ല ക്രയവിക്രയാധികാരംകൂടി കൊടുക്കണൊ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): പറയർ, പുലയർ തുടങ്ങിയുള്ളവക്കു കുറഞ്ഞതു് ഒരു ഫ കൊല്ലത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും ക്രയവിക്രയസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. അവർ രാജ്യമാകുന്ന ഭവനത്തിലെ മൈനർകളാണു്.

റിസർവുവനങ്ങൾ കുറെ ഒഴിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യത്തിന്നു ഒരു ദോഷവും വരികയില്ല.

റിസർവ്വ്വനങ്ങൾ ഒഴിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു മഴ ഉണ്ടാകാതെ പോകും എന്നു പറയുന്നതു് അർത്ഥമില്ലാത്തതാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഒഴിച്ചു് തോട്ടങ്ങൾ വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നിട്ടും മഴയ്ക്കു കുറവൊന്നുമില്ല. പടിഞ്ഞാറെകടലിലെ നീരാവിപോയി പർവ്വതം തടയുമ്പോൾ അവ ഉയർന്നതണുത്താണു് മഴപെയ്യുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ പർവ്വതത്തിനു അപ്പുറമുള്ള തിരുനെൽവേലി ജില്ലയിൽ മഴപെയ്യാത്തതിനുള്ള കാരണമെന്തു്? കിഴക്കുനിന്നും നീരാവിവരാത്തതുതന്നെ. കാടുകൊണ്ടാണെങ്കിൽ തിരുനെൽവേലി മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കുറെ കാടുകൾ നട്ടുനനച്ചുണ്ടാക്കി

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

മഴപെയ്യിക്കരുതെ? നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടും നനച്ചു കാടുവളത്തി എന്നാലും മഴ ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു മഴക്കായും പറഞ്ഞു ഈ റിസർവ്വവനങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം ഇങ്ങനെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. തടിയും മരവുമല്ല ജനങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യമുള്ളതു്. അവക്കത്യാവശ്യമുള്ളതു് ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളാണു്. ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കുള്ള അധികാരസീമ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ കൺസർവേറ്റർ പറയും. അതിനെ കണ്ണുമടച്ചു് ആ വിധം സമ്മതിക്കരുതു്. റിസർവ്വവനത്തിനകത്തുതന്നെ പുരാതനകാലങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്തുവന്നിരുന്നതായി അനവധി ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങളുണ്ടു്. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴതാലൂക്കിൽ സ്വാമ്പി ഏറിയാകമ്മറ്റി'യിലെ മെമ്പർ എന്ന നിലയിൽ വനത്തിലെ ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ പുഴുക്കാം കടിച്ചു രക്തം ഒലിച്ചും പ്രാകൃതവേഷധാരിയായും കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു പരിശോധിച്ചു റിപ്പോർട്ടും സമർപ്പിച്ചു. റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ന. ഠ ഠ-ൽ ചിലപ്രാനം ഏക്കറാണു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാൻ ശുപാർശ ചെയ്തിരുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ ന. ഠ ഏക്കറാണു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാൻ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. കഷ്ടപ്പാടും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും മാത്രം മിച്ചം.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ജനങ്ങൾ കടന്നു ദേഹണ്ഡം ചെയ്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): ചില താലൂക്കുകളിലെ വനങ്ങളിൽ പത്തുപതിനഞ്ചു വർഷത്തിനുമേൽ പഴക്കമുള്ള കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ദേഹണ്ഡക്കാരെയെല്ലാം ഒഴിപ്പിക്കാൻ നടപടി നടത്തുന്നതായി കേൾക്കുന്നു. ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ധാരാളം കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുള്ള ഒരു വകുപ്പാണു്. പ്രവേശനകാലത്തുകേസ്സാക്കി ജനങ്ങളെ ഒഴിപ്പിക്കാതെ ആറും ഏഴും വർഷമായിട്ടു കൃഷിചെയ്തു് ആദായം എടുക്കുന്ന കാലത്തു് ഒഴിയണം എന്നു പറയുന്നതു വളരെ പരിതാപകരമായ സംഗതിയാണു്. പക്ഷികൾക്കു വൃക്ഷങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുകെട്ടി കിടക്കാം, കാട്ടുജന്തുക്കൾക്കു കാടുകളിൽഉള്ള ഗുഹകളിൽ കിടക്കാം. ഈ സാധുക്കൾ കൂടിയിറങ്ങിയാൽ എവിടെ പോകും? അതുകൊണ്ടു റിസർവ്വിൽ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോകൊല്ലത്തിനു മുമ്പു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള കൃഷി ഒഴിപ്പിക്കരുതു്. ഇതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സ്മരണയിലിരിക്കണം. അറിയാതെയാണു പ്രവേശനങ്ങൾ. ബൗണ്ടറി തെളിയിച്ചിട്ടു ഗാർഡുകൾ തടയാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ലേ പ്രവേശിച്ചതു്?

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MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): കുടിപാർപ്പ് തുടങ്ങി ദേഹണ്ണം ചെയ്താൽ ആ സ്ഥലം ദേഹണ്ണക്കാർക്ക് പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന ചട്ടമില്ലേ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): അങ്ങിനെ ചട്ടം ഉണ്ട്. അതനുസരിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല. അതു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടകാര്യത്തെപറ്റിയും ഞാൻ പ്രാരംഭത്തിൽ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അധ്യക്ഷതരുടെ അവകാശം ഒന്നാമതായിട്ടു ഗണിക്കണം. കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഐശ്വര്യത്തിന് അവരാണ് കാരണക്കാർ. അവർക്കു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യംകിട്ടിയതു് ഇപ്പോഴാണ്. ഭൂമിമാത്രം കൊടുത്താൽപോരാ; വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനും കൂടുതൽ സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കണം. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന് ആകപ്പാടെ ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്ന തുകയിൽ ജനസംഖ്യയനുസരിച്ച് അവർക്കു ന്യായമായി കിട്ടേണ്ട അവകാശത്തിന്റെ പത്തിൽ ഒരംശംപോലും അവർക്കു ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് ന്യായമായി അവർക്കു കിട്ടാനുള്ളതു കൊടുക്കണം. സ്കൂളുകളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് ആഹാരമായിട്ടും വസ്ത്രങ്ങളായിട്ടും പുസ്തകമായിട്ടും കൊടുക്കണമെന്നൊള്ള. എന്നാലും കൊടുക്കാനുള്ളതല്ലാതെ കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരികയില്ല. ഈ ലക്ഷ്യം മുമ്പാകെ വെച്ചുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കണം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായിട്ടൊള്ള. അതു കൂട്ടണം. കൂട്ടുന്നതിൽ ഒരു വലിയ ഭാഗം അധ്യക്ഷതരുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായിട്ടു വ്യയം ചെയ്യണം. ഇവർക്കു പുസ്തകം മുതലായതു വെറുതെ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഒരു പ്രമേയം ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു. എന്നാൽ എന്റെ സഹപ്രവർത്തകന്മാരായ പലർക്കും അഭിപ്രായ വ്യത്യാസം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനാൽ പാസ്സാക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ല.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് ആശുപത്രികളെക്കുറിച്ചാണ്. ഞാൻ പലപ്പോഴും ഡാക്ടർമാർക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ട പടിയെ ക്ലിപ്തപ്പെടുത്തി ജനങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കണമെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ വകയ്ക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന് ഒരു ചിലവുമില്ല. എല്ലാ ആശുപത്രിയുടേയും ഭിത്തിയിൽ ഡാക്ടർമാർക്കു മൈലിന് ഇത്ര രൂപാ പടി കൊടുക്കണം എന്നെഴുതിവയ്ക്കണം. ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യമില്ലാത്ത ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ രോഗികളെ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ പല ദുർഘടങ്ങളും ഉണ്ട്. രോഗിയെ എടുത്തു് ആശുപത്രിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോകുമ്പോൾ ആ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടു കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ അയാൾ മരിച്ചുപോയി എന്നും വരും. ഇപ്പോൾ ഡാക്ടർമാർക്കുകൊടുത്താലും അതെല്ലാം പടിയാണ്. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ബോർഡു് ആശുപത്രികളിൽ വച്ചാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കാര്യമറിഞ്ഞു ചെയ്യാമല്ലോ.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ചില ഡാക്ടർമാർ എന്തുതന്നെയായാലും കൂടുതൽ പണം വാങ്ങിക്കുമായിരിക്കും. എങ്കിലും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സമാധാനമുണ്ട്. ഈ പടിയെല്ലാം ഗവർമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും വാങ്ങി ഡാക്ടർമാർക്കു ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടികൊടുത്താൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അധികം ഗുണം ഉണ്ട്. രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ അങ്ങിനെ നടക്കുന്നു. വാസസ്ഥലത്തുപോയി രജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്യാനുള്ളപടി ഗവർമെൻറുവാങ്ങിക്കുന്നു. അവർക്കു ശമ്പളം മാത്രം കൊടുക്കുന്നു.

ആശുപത്രി ചില പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ വളരെ കുറവാണ്. തൊട്ടുപുഴ തുടങ്ങിയുള്ള ചില താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഓരോ ആശുപത്രിയെ ഉള്ളൂ. ചില താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നാലും അഞ്ചും ഉണ്ട്. തൊട്ടുപുഴയിൽ കരിമണ്ണൂരും അറക്കുളത്തും ഓരോ ഡിസ്പെൻസറി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു തരണം. ഉഴുന്നാടുകളിലെ കൃഷീവലന്മാർക്കു കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമായവിധം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു വീണ്ടും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തെ അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): സർ, ഈ പ്രാവശ്യത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് പല കാരണങ്ങളാൽ പ്രശംസനീയവും ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകളുടെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറ് വളരെ വിശേഷവുമായിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവർമെൻറിനേയും ഫിനാൻസ് കമ്മിറ്റിയേയും ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയേയും പ്രത്യേകം അഭിനന്ദിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. എങ്കിലും അതോടുകൂടിത്തന്നെ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകളും ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ചു ചില ചെപ്പടിവിദ്യകളും പ്രയോഗിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത വിസ്മരിക്കുവാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാ. കരുതൽ ധനത്തിൽ നിന്നു പോലും ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യ ചിലവു ചെയ്തു തിരുവനന്തപുരം തീവണ്ടി, വാട്ടർ സപ്ലൈ സ്കീം, ഇലക്ട്രിക് സ്കീം മുതലായവ ഉടനെ പണി ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനും നിയമസഭാമന്ദിരം പണിസംബന്ധിച്ച് ആവശ്യമുള്ള പ്രാരംഭനടപടികളും നടത്തുന്നതിനും ജനോപകാരപ്രദങ്ങളായ എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾക്കും കൂടുതൽ പണം അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിനും ഗവർമെൻറ് പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സന്നദ്ധത ശ്ലാഘനീയം തന്നെ. കാലം ചെന്നമഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഓർമ്മയെ നില നിർത്തുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകളും ഉടൻ ചെയ്യാമെന്നു ഗവർമെൻറ് ഈ സഭയോടു ചെയ്ത വാഗ്ദത്തത്തെ നിറവേറുന്നതിൽ വരുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള കാലതാമസം ക്ഷന്തവ്യമല്ലെന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ സുബ്ബയ്യരുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാനും യോജിക്കയും ഗവർമെ

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ൻറ് ആ കാര്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഉത്സാഹം പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

മെഡിക്കൽ കാൺടാക്ട് ഇനത്തിൽ വലിയ ഒരു തുക ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങളെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടിതന്നെ സ്റ്റേഷനറിയുടെ കാര്യത്തിലും ഇതുപോലെ ഒരു ശ്രമം ചെയ്യുന്ന പക്ഷം ഇതിനെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള എൻറെ വിശ്വാസത്തെ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താപിച്ചു കൊള്ളട്ടെ.

ബഡ്ജറു പലകാരണങ്ങളാൽ ശ്ലാഘ്യമാണെങ്കിലും അതു കേവലം ദോഷരഹിതമാണെന്നോ പ്രശംസയെ മാത്രമേ അർഹിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ എന്നോ പറയുവാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാ. ൧൯൩൫-ലെ വരവിനത്തിൽ ന്യൂ-ലക്ഷം രൂപാ Government of India Pronote വാങ്ങിയവക, ലാഭമുള്ളതായിവരവു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് നേരമ്പോക്കുതന്നെ. വല്ല പൊളിഞ്ഞകമ്പനിയുടേയും ഷയറുകൾ കുറെ കുറഞ്ഞവിലക്കു വാങ്ങിയാൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കരുതൽധനം വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നു് ജനസാമാന്യത്തെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു സാധിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. ൧൯൩൫-ൽ ൨൩ ലക്ഷവും ൧൯൩൬-ൽ ൨൪ ലക്ഷവും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു മിച്ചമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു് തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ജനതയുടെ നേരെ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മഹാപരാധങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നാണു്. ഒരു സംഖ്യകൊണ്ടു ജനോപകാരപ്രദങ്ങളായ മാറ്റങ്ങളിൽ ചിലവഴിക്കാമായിരുന്ന അവസരത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ൧൯൩൯-ൽ ന്യൂ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ മാത്രം മിച്ചം വരുമെന്നു കണക്കാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു പല ചെപ്പടിവിദ്യകൾ പ്രയോഗിച്ചതിനു ശേഷമാണു്. അബ്കാരി, ഇറിഗേഷൻ എന്നീ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളുടെ നെറ്റ് റിസീറ്റ്സ് മാത്രമേ വരവിനത്തിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളൂ. എന്നാൽ മലയാളം പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ അച്ചടിവകക്കു് രണ്ടുലക്ഷത്തിപതിനായിരം രൂപാ ചിലവിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു. അബ്കാരി മുതലായ ഇനങ്ങളിലേതുപോലെ തന്നെ അതാതാണ്ടിൽ പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ വില്പനയിൽ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ആദായം മാത്രം വരവിനത്തിൽ ചേർക്കുകയും തന്നാണ്ടു ചിലവിനത്തിൽ നഷ്ടമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അത്രമാത്രം കൊള്ളിക്കുകയുമാണു് ന്യായമായി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു്. ഈ സംഖ്യ കൂട്ടി കണക്കാക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ൧൯൩൬-ലെ മിച്ചം ൨൫ ലക്ഷമായി വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതാകുന്നു. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെയാത്രച്ചിലവു വകക്കു് ഒരു ലക്ഷംരൂപാ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതേവരെയുള്ള അനുഭവം വിചാരിച്ചാൽ അൻപു

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[Mr. C. P. TARAKAN.]

തിനായിരം രൂപായിലധികം ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ചിലവു വരുമെന്നു് വിചാരിക്കാൻ ന്യായമില്ലാ. കള്ളു്, ചാരായം, എന്നീ ഇനങ്ങളിൽ ൨൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണു് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ ഇനങ്ങളിൽ ൧൯൦൧-ലെ അസ്സൽ വരവു് ൨൫ ലക്ഷമാണു്. ൧൯൦൨-ൽ ൨൬ ലക്ഷം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് എസ്റ്റിമേറു ചെയ്തു എങ്കിലും അതു ൨൬ ലക്ഷമായി വർദ്ധിക്കുമെന്നാണു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പ്രതീക്ഷ. ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിൽ അസ്സൽ കണക്കുകഠം വരുമ്പോൾ അതു് കുറെക്കൂടി വർദ്ധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു് എനിക്കു യാതൊരുസംശയവുമില്ലാ. എങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ എക്സൈസ് എസ്റ്റിമേറു് തുകയെത്തന്നെ നമുക്കു സ്വീകരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ തന്നെയും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ എക്സൈസ് നയം ഭേദപ്പെടുത്താതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ൧൯൦൩-ൽ ൨൬ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ആ ഇനത്തിൽ വരവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിൽ വലിയ അനൗചിത്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതു് ഇപ്പോൾ കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തുകയെക്കാൾ മൂന്നു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കൂടുതലായിരിക്കും. ഇനിയും തേയിലച്ചുങ്കം ഇനത്തിൽ ബ്രീട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു് യാതൊന്നും കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാ എന്നു വന്നതിനു ശേഷവും കസ്റ്റംസ് ഇനത്തിൽ ൧൯൦൨-ലെ വരവു് ഏകദേശം അൻപതിനായിരം ഉറുപ്പിക ഈ ആണ്ടത്തെക്കാൾ കുറവായിരിക്കുമെന്നു് പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് വളരെ കുറവാണു്. എങ്ങിനേയും ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപായെങ്കിലും കൂടുതലായി വരവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു ന്യായമായി ആശിക്കാം. ഇങ്ങിനെ നമുക്കു് പ്രത്യക്ഷമായി കാണാവുന്ന ഇനങ്ങളിൽ തന്നെ മുതുങ്ങിയതു് പതിനാലുലക്ഷം രൂപായോടടുത്ത ഒരു സംഖ്യ ൧൯൦൨-ൽ ആദായമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ൧൯൦൨-ൽ അവസാനത്തിൽ കണക്കുകഠം പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെപ്പോലെ തന്നെ ൨൬ ലക്ഷമോ അതിൽ കൂടുതലൊ മിച്ചമുണ്ടാകുന്നപക്ഷം ഞാൻ ഒട്ടും തന്നെ അത്ഭുതപ്പെടുന്നതല്ലാ. ഏകദേശം ആ രീതിയിലാണു് എസ്റ്റിമേറുകഠം തയാറാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ നിലയിൽ അത്യാവശ്യങ്ങളായ പല പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു വിമുഖത പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരിക്കലും ശരിയല്ലാ. എൻറെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതന്മാരായ മിസ്റ്റർ ഏ. കെ. പിള്ളയും, മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ളയും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ മദ്യവ്യാപാരം നിരുത്തൽചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു് ഉൽജ്ജിതമായ നടപടികഠം ഉടനെ ആരംഭിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നമ്മുടെ ഭണ്ഡാരത്തിൻറെ പുഷ്ടിയെ ഉപയോഗിച്ചു മദ്യവ്യാപാരത്തെ

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തടയുവാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ശ്രമിയ്ക്കുന്നപക്ഷം തന്നിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങളുടെ കോശസ്ഥിതി നന്നാകുകയും സാധുക്കളായ അനേകമാളുകൾ ആദായകരങ്ങളായ തൊഴിലുകളിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുകയും മറിനങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു വരവു വർദ്ധിക്കുകയും പോലീസുവകുപ്പുസംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ചിലവു കായ്മായി കുറയ്ക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായിരിക്കും.

ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടി പതിയേണ്ടതായ മറെറാരുവിഷയം നിർബന്ധിതപ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസമാണു. ഇതുസംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഒരു ബിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഏകദേശം രണ്ടുസംവത്സരമായി എങ്കിലും അതു് അനുവദിച്ചോ നിഷേധിച്ചോ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു് ഇതേവരെയായിട്ടു് ഒരു മറുപടി തരാതിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല.

ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനെ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുവാൻ ഈ ഭാഗത്തെ ന ാമാജികന്മാക്കു് സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമില്ലാത്തതിൽ ദുഃഖിക്കുകയല്ലാതെ എന്തുചെയ്യട്ടെ! തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആളുകളെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ ആരും പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതായ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നും ആവശ്യമുള്ളവരെല്ലാം താനെതന്നെ സ്കൂളിൽ വന്നുചേർന്നുകൊള്ളുമെന്നും നാം സ്കൂളുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുകമാത്രം ചെയ്താൽ മതിയെന്നും ചിലയാളുകൾക്കു് അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. ഉയർന്ന ജാതിക്കാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഈ അഭിപ്രായം എത്രതന്നെ വാസ്തവമായിരുന്നാലും, താണജാതിക്കാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ വിദ്യാപ്രചാരമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു നിർബന്ധംകൊണ്ടുമാത്രമല്ലാതെ ഒരിക്കലും സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ നിർബന്ധവുമാണു് താണജാതിക്കാക്കു് ആവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഉൽകൃഷ്ടവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലാണു് ക്രൂരതലായ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിച്ചുകാണുന്നതു്. ബറോഡയിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയമായി ൫൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ൧൫ ലക്ഷം പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഇവിടെയാകട്ടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൻെറ മൊത്തം ചിലവു ൫൭ ലക്ഷമായിരിക്കേ പ്രാഥമികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനുള്ള ചിലവു കേവലം ൬ൽ ലക്ഷം മാത്രമാണു്. ഇതു് എത്രയൊ ശോചനീയമായിരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രാഥമികപാഠശാലകളിലെ അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതിൻെറ അത്യാവശ്യകതയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഈ സഭ ഏകാഭിപ്രായം പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുകയും, അതനുസരിച്ചു നിയമിച്ച കമ്മററിക്കാർ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ റിപ്പോർട്ടു സമർപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷം ഈ ആ

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[Mr. C. P. Tarakan.]

ണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ആ വകക്കു യാതൊരു തുകയും കൊള്ളിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണു്. കഴിയുന്ന വേഗത്തിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പ്രസ്തുതറിപ്പോർട്ട് പരിശോധിച്ചു് ഉത്തരവു പാസാക്കുകയും അടുത്ത സഭായോഗത്തിൽ സപ്ലിമെൻററി ഗ്രാൻറ് ആവശ്യപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിൻെറ ചിലവിലേക്ക് അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്ന തുകയിൽ ഒരുലക്ഷത്തി ഇരുപത്തിഒൻപതിനായിരം രൂപ മിച്ചംവരുമെന്നു കണക്കാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനുള്ള കാരണമെന്തെന്നൊ ഉത്തരവാദി ആരാണൊന്നൊ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താപിച്ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഭരണചക്രത്തിൻെറ ആണികാം അയഞ്ഞു തുടങ്ങീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയേണ്ടി വന്നതിലെനിക്കു വളരെ മനസ്താപമുണ്ട്. ഇതേസംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇന്നലെ എൻെറ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങാം അക്ഷരംപ്രതി ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. കൊച്ചി, മൈസൂർ മുതലായ അയൽരാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഭരണാധികാരികാം പരിഷ്കാരപരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളുമായി കുതിച്ചുചായവെ നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡയറക്ടർ ആഫീസുമുറിയുടെ ചുമരുകാംക്കുള്ളിൽ ഒതുങ്ങി ഉറങ്ങുകയും കേവലം ഒരു ആഫീസ്മാനേജരുടെ ജോലികാം മാത്രം ചെയ്തു തൃപ്തി അടയുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന കാഴ്ചയാണു നമ്മുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിക്കു വിഷയീഭവിക്കുന്നതു്. സ്വാഭാവികമായ ശക്തികൊണ്ടു നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസച്ചെടി സ്വതന്ത്രമായിത്തന്നെ തഴച്ചു വളരുവാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും നൂതനവിഷയങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഡയറക്ടർ ആഫീസിൽ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെടുന്ന മാന്ദ്യവും അശക്തിയും നിമിത്തം പ്രസ്തുത ചെടിയുടെ വളർച്ചക്കു് പലപ്പോഴും തടസ്സം നേരിടുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഡയറക്ടർസ്ഥാനത്തുനിന്നുള്ള അലസവും അശക്തവുമായ ഭരണത്തിൻെറ ദോഷഫലങ്ങാം നാം അനുഭവിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ളതേയുള്ളൂ. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ കുറേനാാംകൂടി മുന്നോട്ടുപോയാൽ നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസചക്രം തിരിയാൻ ശക്തിയില്ലാതെ നിന്നുപോകുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കാൻ പല ലക്ഷണങ്ങാം കണ്ടുതുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കൊച്ചി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡയറക്ടർ ഒരു വർഷത്തിൽ പതിനഞ്ചു ദിവസവും ബറോഡ എഡ്യൂക്കേഷനൽ കമ്മീഷണർ ഒരുവർഷത്തിൽ നൂറ്റമ്പതു മൈലും സഞ്ചരിച്ചിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡയറക്ടർ സഞ്ചരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ദിവസങ്ങളുടെ സംഖ്യ പറയുവാൻ എനിക്കു ലജ്ജതോന്നുന്നു. ഒരേവിഷയത്തിൽ മാത്രം ശ്രദ്ധപതിച്ചു് സംകുചിതമാനസരായിത്തീ

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ന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രഫസർമാരെ ഭരണമേധാവികളായി പ്രതിഷ്ഠിക്കുന്ന നയത്തിന്റെ ദോഷഫലങ്ങളാണു നാം അനുഭവിക്കുന്നതു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഭരണകൃത്യങ്ങളുടെ പല കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പററി എനിക്കു വളരെ പറയുവാനുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതിനുള്ള അവസരം ഇല്ലാത്തതിനാൽ അതിലേക്കു തുനിയുന്നില്ല. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനുള്ള അഭ്യർത്ഥനകളെപ്പററി വാദപ്രതിവാദം ചെയ്യുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ അതേപ്പററി ഞാൻ കൂടുതലായി പ്രസ്താപിച്ചുകൊള്ളാം. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ചിലവിലേക്കു് ആണ്ടുതോറും അനുവദിക്കുന്ന തുകകഠം അതാതു ആണ്ടിൽതന്നെ ചിലവിടുവാൻ ശക്തമാകത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ പരിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയമായ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പററി ആലോചിക്കുവാൻ ഒരു കമ്മിററി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ഭാവിക്കുന്നതായി രണ്ടുസംവത്സരംമുൻപു ഗവർമെൻറിൽനിന്നും പ്രസ്താവിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ഇതേവരെ ഗവർമെൻറു് ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഒന്നുതന്നെ പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചു കാണാത്തതു് എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസകാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പററി അന്വേഷണംനടത്തി പരിഷ്കാരമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങഠം നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുവാൻ ശക്തിയുള്ള ഒരു കമ്മിററി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയൊ ആഫീസുമുറിയിൽനിന്നും പുറത്തിറങ്ങി ലോകത്തിൽ ചുററും നടക്കുന്ന സംഗതികഠം കണ്ടറിയുകയും സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചരിച്ചു ജനങ്ങളോടും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളോടും ഇടപഴകി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ വിസ്താരമായ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പററി ചിന്തിക്കുവാനും പുതിയ പുതിയ പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങഠം ധൈര്യത്തോടുകൂടി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാനും ശക്തിയുള്ള ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവകുപ്പിന്റെ മേലനേഷണത്തിനു നിയമിയ്ക്കുകയൊ മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടതുപോലെ ഉത്സാഹവും ത്രാണിയുമുള്ള ഒരു ഡെപ്യൂട്ടിഡയറക്ടരെ ശരിയായ അധികാരങ്ങളോടുകൂടി നിയമിച്ചു പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കുകയൊ, മലയാളവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെപ്രത്യേകമാക്കി വേർതിരിച്ചു ഡയറക്ടരുടെ ജോലിക.ഠംക്കു ലാഘവം വരുത്തികൊടുക്കുകയൊ ചെയ്യാത്തപക്ഷം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവകുപ്പിന്റെ ഭാരത്തിനടിയിൽപെട്ട ഡയറക്ടരും തൽഫലമായി നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും ഞെരിഞ്ഞു ഉടഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നതായിരിക്കും. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് ശ്രേയസ്സുമായവിധം ഭരിക്കുവാൻ ശക്തിയുള്ള ഒന്നിലധികം ആളുകഠം ഈ ഹാളിൽതന്നെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തു ഉണ്ടെന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. മൈസൂരിലെപ്പോലെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരെ മൂന്നു കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഒരിക്കലൊ മറെറാ മാറി

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[Mr. C. P. Tarakan.]

മാറി നിയമിക്കുന്നതു പ്രയോജനകരമായിരിക്കുമോ എന്നുള്ളതു നമ്മുടെ ചിന്തയ്ക്കു വിഷയമാക്കേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. ഇവിടെയുള്ളവരുടെ ശക്തികളെപ്പറ്റി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു വിശ്വാസം ഇല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം സമർത്ഥനും സമ്മതനുമായ ഒരാളെ പുറത്തുനിന്നു വരുത്തുന്നതിനുപോലും എനിക്കു വിരോധമില്ല. എങ്ങിനെയും നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവകുപ്പിനു് ഒരു ജീവനും ഉണർച്ചയുംകൊടുക്കേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഫാമിൻ–ൽ പബ്ലിക്കുവർക്ക്സ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു് അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നതിൽ അര ലക്ഷം രൂപായോളം മിച്ചംവരുമെന്നു കാണുന്നതു പരിതാപകരംതന്നെ എങ്കിലും ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർ ഉദ്യോഗം കുറെ കാലത്തേക്കു് ഊഹലോകത്തുമാത്രം സ്ഥിതിചെയ്തിരുന്നതിനാൽ ഈ ഫലത്തെപ്പറ്റി അതിശയിക്കേണ്ടതില്ല. മിസ്റ്റർ വൈപ്പുന്റെ ഭരണത്തിൽ ഈമാതിരി അനിഷ്ടസംഭവങ്ങൾ മേലിൽ ഉണ്ടാകയില്ലെന്നും, തന്നെ ഏല്പിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ മുഴുവൻ ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനു പ്രയോജനകരമായി ചിലവിടുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധവെക്കുമെന്നും വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. പതിവുപോലെ ഈയാണ്ടിലും ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഗതാഗതങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നതു സന്തോഷകരംതന്നെ. എങ്കിലും വളരെ കാലമായി ഞങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ആലുവാപാലം, അതിരപ്പള്ളി അണ, എന്നീ സംഗതികളിൽ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ഫാമിൻ–ൽ നടത്തുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു കാണുന്നതിൽ ദുഃഖിക്കുന്നു. മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു സംഗതികളിലും മിസ്റ്റർ വൈപ്പുനും ഗവർണ്മെൻറും ഉടനെ ദൃഷ്ടിപതിക്കുകയും ഊർജ്ജിതമായ നടപടികൾ നടത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നുതന്നെ ആശിക്കുന്നു. കൊല്ലം എറണാകുളം തീവണ്ടിക്കായ്ത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു സാഹസത്തോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടിതന്നെ ആ സംഗതിയുടെ നടത്തിപ്പിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ഭീമമായ സംഖ്യ കടംവാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ ആലോചിച്ചതിനുശേഷം വേണ്ടതാണെന്നു കരുതൽ ഉപദേശിച്ച എന്റെ മാന്യ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരപിള്ളയുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ കേട്ടു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ഭയപ്പെടേണ്ടതായ ആവശ്യംഇല്ലെന്നും റിപ്രൊഡക്ടീവുവർക്ക്സിനു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള സംഖ്യകൾ കടംവാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ ഭയപ്പെടത്തക്ക വിധത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ കോശസ്ഥിതി അത്ര മോശമല്ലെന്നും പ്രസ്തുത ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ധൈര്യപൂർവ്വം മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുന്നതുമൂലം ഗുണമല്ലാതെ ഒരിക്കലും ദോഷമുണ്ടാ

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കുന്നതല്ലെന്നും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഗതാഗത സൌകര്യങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യം അവസാനിക്കുന്നതിനുമുൻപു കക്കാട്ടറോഡിനെ പ്പറ്റി രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഇതു കേവലം ഒരു നിസ്സാരകാര്യമല്ല. അനേക ആളുകളുടെ ആത്മാഭിമാനത്തെ മറിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നഒരു മഹാകാര്യമാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ധൈര്യപൂർവ്വംപ്രവൃത്തിക്കുകയും ശക്തിഹീനരുടെ വശത്തുനിന്നു നീതിയും ന്യായവും പരിപാലിക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുകയും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ എല്ലാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും സമാധാനവും സംതൃപ്തിയും ഉണ്ടാകത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ ന്യായയുക്തമായവിധം പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ സകല ശക്തികളും പ്രയോഗിക്കുവാൻസദാ സന്നദ്ധമായിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു് ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ മുമതല. അതിനു പകരം ഗവർണ്മെൻറു കേവലം ഭീരുക്കളെപ്പോലെ ഒളിച്ചുകളിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരിക്കലും ശരിയല്ല. ന്യായമായ ഏതു കാര്യത്തിലും ഉറച്ചുനില്ക്കുന്നതിനു് നമ്മുടെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ശക്തിയില്ലായ്കയില്ല. മനസ്സുമാത്രമുണ്ടായാൽ മതിയാകുന്നതാണു്. ശക്തിഹീനരായിട്ടുള്ളവരുടെ ന്യായമായ എല്ലാ അവകാശങ്ങളേയും സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സന്നദ്ധതയോടുകൂടിയാണു് നമ്മുടെ ഗുണവതിയായ മഹാറാണിതിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു് രാജ്യഭാരം കയ്യേറ്റിട്ടുള്ളതു്. തിരുമനസ്സിലെ വിശാലഹൃദയത്തിൻെറയും മനശക്തിയുടെയും ഫലങ്ങളാം വൈക്കം സത്യാഗ്രഹം തുടങ്ങിയ പല സംഗതികളിൽ നമുക്കു് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ മാത്രം തിരുമനസ്സിലെ മനഃശക്തി തിരുമേനിയേ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ശരിയായവിധം ഉപദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ടാൽ കക്കാട്ടു ഗ്രാമത്തിലുള്ള സാധുക്കളുടെ ആത്മാഭിമാനത്തിനു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന മുറിവിനെ തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു മായ്ച്ചുകളയുന്നതായിരിക്കും. സ്വാർത്ഥപരന്മാരും ദുരഭിമാനികളുമായ ഏതാനും ആളുകളുടെ ന്യായരഹിതങ്ങളായ ആഗ്രഹങ്ങൾക്കു വഴിപ്പെട്ട ഗവർണ്മെൻറു് പതിനായിരം രൂപാ വെള്ളത്തിൽ കളയാതെ ഇപ്പോൾ അവിടെയുള്ളതായ റോഡു് എല്ലാജാതിക്കാർക്കും ഉപയോഗിക്കത്തക്ക വിധത്തിൽ തുറന്നു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന എല്ലാപ്രയാസങ്ങളും ക്ഷമയോടുകൂടി സഹിക്കുവാൻ നീതിബോധമുള്ള ഒരു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു് എപ്പോഴും തയാറായിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. കക്കാട്ടു ഗ്രാമത്തിലുള്ള എല്ലാ ആളുകളും ജാതിഭേദമെന്യേ അവിടെ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള റോഡിൽ കൂടി സമാധാനപൂർവ്വം സൈ്വരമായി സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതു് താമസംവിനാ കാണ്മാൻഇടയാകുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

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The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-3 P. M.

The Council re-assembled at 2-45 P. M.

PRESIDENT : I understand that there are one or two other members on the non-official side who wish to speak and the official members tell me that they do not want the whole of the afternoon. So, I wish to give the non-official members another half an hour or so if they wish to speak.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*) : Sir, the revenue of our State is on the increase every year. One of the fundamental principles of taxation is that the people must be able to pay the amount without sacrificing their necessaries and so in all progressive countries a ratio is kept up between the revenue of the State and the wealth of the people. If the wealth of the people had been increasing in like proportion, the increase in revenue would have been a matter for real joy. In Travancore, it is very difficult to know the real economic condition of the people, since we have not got the necessary statistics. But from the available information, it could be inferred that the wealth of the country has not improved to any appreciable extent.

Travancore is a country of agriculturists and a vast majority of the people are engaged in agricultural pursuits. The British Isles, Japan and other favoured countries, by virtue of their geographical position and the technical skill of the inhabitants, may be able to live as manufacturing nations, but it is hopeless for Travancore, at least in the near future, to strive after such a position. It is therefore absolutely essential that the land should be made to yield more produce and crops of a high value than are now grown. This object could be attained only by increasing the area under cultivation and by adopting economical and scientific methods.

Besides, the population of the State is increasing every year. According to the last census, it is 4,006,062 and the total area under occupation in 1101 is only 2,281,585 acres. From the available information, it could be seen that even last year we have imported, through the principal ports of the State, paddy and rice worth about Rs. 2 crores. So, in order to ease the density of population and to produce the necessary quantity of rice, it is absolutely necessary to extend the area under cultivation.

Moreover, we do not get a proportionate or fair revenue from land which is not occupied. Though about a third of the State is reserved forests, the net revenue from this, taking the average for the last five years into consideration, is only Rs. 228 per square mile ; whereas the net revenue from occupied lands in 1102 will be Rs. 31 lakhs.

On these grounds, the representatives of the people have brought before the attention of the Government the urgent necessity for disafforesting lands fit for paddy cultivation. That the Government have accepted the soundness of the principle could be seen from the addresses

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delivered by the Dewans in the Assembly. At the 21st session of the Assembly, the Dewan said as follows :—

"In my address to the members of the 19th session of the Assembly, I stated, that with a view to increase the area under paddy cultivation, the Government had ordered that blocks of swamps and other lands within reserved forests suitable for paddy cultivation should be thrown open for such cultivation without detriment to Forest Conservancy."

At the 23rd session of the Assembly the Dewan said:—

"Our people demand the yielding up of forests. The department is a jealous custodian. Wherever possible, endeavour must be made to ease the density of population in our occupied lands and for such better distribution, the policy of judicious disafforestation already initiated will be carefully pursued."

Though the Government have disafforested a few acres recently, the total area of the State forests has increased considerably. In 1097, the total area of State forests was 2,453 square miles; in 1098, it was 2,444 square miles; in 1099 it was 2447 square miles; in 1100 it was 2,456 square miles and in 1101 it was 2490 square miles. So, within four years, the area of the State forests has increased by 47 square miles. This increase in area is totally against the demands of the people. The Government should adopt a more liberal policy with regard to this.

Moreover, the people, at large will not be benefited by merely disafforesting the lands. It must be registered in the names of the people on certain conditions, about extent, cultivation and alienation; otherwise, big capitalists may find it an opportunity to register the same or get it transferred in their names.

To increase the output of paddy, the most important thing necessary at present is to improve the irrigation works and maintain them properly. If there is one thing for which the ryots will be grateful to the Government, it is the improvement of minor irrigation works. It is admitted by the Government that these works were in a neglected condition for years together. Considering the urgent necessity and the neglectful condition of these works, the amount of Rs. 2,39,571 allotted for irrigation purposes for the coming year is too inadequate. This year we expected only a surplus of Rs. 3·62 lakhs, but according to the revised estimates, the surplus will be Rs. 24·07 lakhs. So the Government could have very well utilised at least a major portion of the excess amount for the improvement of this all-important work. Besides, the expenditure under irrigation works must be incurred according to the degree of necessity. As in the case of means of communication, the Government are spending the major portion of the amount in South Travancore. Though North Travancore is urgently in need of irrigation canals and other works, the amount allotted to Alwaye and Kottayam Divisions is only Rs. 2,950; and of the total allotment of Rs. 75,594 for new productive irrigation works, the amount for Alwaye and Kottayam Divisions is only Rs. 20,700. So at least on future occasions the Government should treat North Travancore with more consideration. In the matter of irrigation also, the department does not make any real consultation with the people concerned. It is therefore necessary to establish taluk or *pakuthi* committees, at least, for the purpose of consultation.

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[Mr. A. J. John.]

The opening of new roads or other means of communication is of great importance to agriculturists as they are the means of developing trade and industry. It is gratifying to note that the Government have begun to bestow more attention to this branch, the increase over the current year's figure being nearly Rs. 1 lakh. But from an examination of the detailed budget of the Public Works Department, it could be seen that there is great disparity in the distribution of funds in the various taluks, or that it has no proportion to the revenue collected from each taluk, or the population and the urgent necessity of the works. All progressive Governments are trying their level best to open as many lines of railways as possible. The Government also have decided their present policy with regard to this and have taken up the line from Quilon to Ernakulam. Some people, when they hear of this particular line, become very uneasy and advance all sorts of unreasonable arguments. The Government should not pay any heed to these agruments, but should construct the line immediately.

Another matter which I want to bring before the attention of the Government is the opening of a Land Mortgage Bank. The Government doubt whether there will be funds enough for such an institution. If the cash deposits made in banks outside the State could be utilised for this purpose, I think the bank could be started without much difficulty. This will be really beneficial to the people of the State. From the speech of the Financial Secretary, it could be seen that we have purchased Rs. 60 lakhs of Government of India 4 per cent. 1960-70 securities this year. Whether this transaction is economically sound, I am not in a position to say. Though the face value is Rs. 100, the average purchase price is only Bh. Rs. 89-4-6. We do not know at present what will be the real value in future. This amount could have very well been utilised for this Bank.

There are certain unjustifiable items of revenue existing in Travancore. One of them is the collection of fees from markets. The total amount expected next year under this head is Rs. 80,000. This has to be collected from about 154 public markets and a few private markets. This amount is collected by taxing the necessaries of the poor people. Though the fees prescribed is only a very small amount, the lessees generally collect much more than that because the cost of collection will be considerable and the lessee has to get a decent profit. The payment of this fee is highly inconvenient also. On all these grounds the poor people are put to much difficulty and suffering. This source of revenue has therefore to be abolished.

In the working of the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation, the people suffer much hardship. Though under the Regulation, only vessels plying for hire along a public canal need be registered, the authorities compel the people to register all vessels and realise the fees. In some places like Kuttanad, ordinary boats are absolutely necessary. There is no road at all in that place. People who want to go from one place to another have to go in boats. The Government do not spend any amount in that place for the purpose of constructing or maintaining

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roads or other means of communication. Under such circumstances, the levy of fees on boats which are not plying for hire cannot be justified. The Government should therefore consider the case with sympathy.

The Financial Secretary should therefore examine the sources of revenue and see the items of unjustifiable or oppressive taxes that are now imposed and find out ways and means to abolish them immediately.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, the budget estimates presented by the Financial Secretary to this House is really a satisfactory one viewed from the standpoint of Government finances. Government revenue has been increasing steadily for the last few years and the Government seem to be prepared to spend also in accordance therewith. But viewed from the standpoint of the people, it is doubtful whether the question of receipts and expenditure has been properly considered in the preparation of the budget estimates. First of all, in considering the receipts, we have to see the sources from which they are expected to be realised. Perusing the columns in the budget, it is seen that the collections expected to be got from productive sources do not come even to one-half of the total receipts. By productive sources, I mean such as would tend to increase the wealth of the country, *e. g.*, land, business concerns, forests and P. W. D. works. If the Government receipts are really arising from such items, then, of course, the Government could be congratulated thereon. But as I said, not even one-half of the revenue comes from such productive sources. The major portion comes from other sources such as taxes on articles of consumption and returns for services rendered, and of these, a substantial portion comes from abnoxious and unlaudable sources even. I make special reference to the excise revenue. People have very often complained in this House and elsewhere that this source of revenue which the Government derive should, as far as possible, be put a stop to. The Financial Secretary has said that, in the next year's budget, he has viewed the matter in a conservative spirit. If he had stated that the Government have taken steps to see that the revenue from this source is reduced, then it would have been somewhat satisfactory to the people and their representatives. Instead of that, he simply says that the Government are conservative in their estimates. This shows the indifference with which the Government view the aspirations of the people in the matter. The Government seem to view the matter from the standpoint only of keeping up their revenue as far as possible.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I ask the member whether excise revenue is not derived from productive sources?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I am referring to the abkari item of it and not to the others.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it not from the productive source of cocoanut or the palmyrah tree?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Though the trees are productive, the things produced are merely articles of consumption which do not lead to further productivity. I was saying that some of

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[Mr. K. I. Joseph.]

these sources of revenue are both objectionable and unproductive ; certain others are returns for services rendered or taxes on articles of consumption. In these circumstances, I state that the Government are not acting on any definite policy or principle in the preparation of their budget. They simply go on with the budget as a sort of ordinary routine work. I hope the Government will hereafter be following a more satisfactory course in this matter.

I may next refer to the methods and agency by which the incomes are collected. Many of us have referred to the great hardship in the present working of the Income Tax Regulation and the toll collections. In the light of these representations, the Government have not cared to do away with the objectionable methods and substitute others. Even though a resolution was passed as regards the abolition of tolls, the Government have not, it seems, considered it seriously and they have auctioned most of the tollgates this year also. Further, I understand that a new one has even been added.

Coming to the items of expenditure, I see more than one-half of the receipts is spent on carrying on the administration of the country in the shape of salaries, etc. More than one-fifth has been devoted to education. On a former occasion, the Government had made a definite pronouncement that no new scheme involving expenditure on education will be taken up without consulting the people. But without adhering to that promise, they are now intending new schemes to spend more money on. I see that provision is made to make the Women's College a First Grade College and also to make extensions to the laboratory of the Science College. The present system of education followed by the Government is not one suited to the conditions of the present day. The object of education is the material and moral progress of the people. But neither materially nor morally does the present system work to the benefit of the people of Travancore. Materially, I must say, because the best portion of the people of the State, *i. e.*, those who aspire to reach leading positions in life and those who have the intellectual stamina for it, go after collegiate education, but when they come out of the colleges, they grow desperate. So the present system of education has to be revised at the earliest possible opportunity and then only additional funds devoted for it.

Another fact seen in the budget is that too much expenditure is incurred on Collegiate and High School education rather than on primary education. Collegiate education is rather a luxury and there are several private institutions also in this line; yet the Government have been spending much on this side. The Government have to spend more on primary education. Regarding secondary education also, there are many private institutions and the Government therefore need not spend much for that also. The existing system having two sets of schools, English and Vernacular schools, is not at all necessary. So, I think it is high time to consider the question of the amalgamation of these two sets of schools. The Government have to consider these and other important matters before they launch into new schemes of development on the existing lines. The present Director of Public Instruction may not be in a position to give necessary advice in the

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matter. The Government may consult the poular representatives who may be able to advise the Government in this matter. The Education Director being shut up in his office room to do routine administrative work may not have the resources or even the originality to think of new schemes and make suggestions. So, I say that, till the Government take proper advice and revise the present educational policy and system, they ought not to incur additional expenditure on new schemes on present lines.

Another matter which affects the welfare of the people is the working of the Agricultural and the Industries Departments. I may at the outset say that I do not want to belittle the endeavours of any particular individual. But I must say that the present system of the working of these departments is not satisfactory. Even though these two departments have been in existence for a long time, people have not derived much benefit out of them. The Government have to make the necessary changes in the present system so that people may be benefited by these departments. For the purpose of inducing people to adopt improved methods of cultivation, I think it is necessary to have at least a model agricultural farm in every taluk. It is not enough to have experimental farms here and there. The experimental farms do not work to show any profit or loss to the people. People will take advantage of improved methods only if they actually see the benefits arising therefrom. Starting of model agricultural farms in different parts of the country will induce the people to follow the improved methods of cultivation. If the Government cannot undertake the work for themselves, they can encourage private individuals by means of substantial aid in this direction.

Another point I wish to speak about is the availability of sufficient lands. As Messrs. Kunjitomman and John stated, the Forest Department has taken one-third of the land in the State in their possession and people even go outside Travancore in quest of lands. In the absence of any scope for intensive cultivation, more lands should be thrown open to the people for cultivation. Mr. Kunjitomman says that no large extent of land should be given to any one for cultivation, but only a few acres. I do not agree with him there. What I suggest is that the extent of land granted should depend upon the ability and the capacity of the man to cultivate it. If necessary, in registering lands, a condition may be imposed that the lands should be brought under cultivation within a specific period and that they should not be alienated before that, and in this light, I may say that lands should be given, taking into consideration the financial capacity of the persons without being unnecessarily restricted to one or two acres.

Another thing I want to say is about the Public Works Department. Of course, the new Chief Engineer may not have had sufficient time before him to understand the condition of the means of communication in the different parts of Travancore. I hope that very soon he will personally visit every part of Travancore and study the condition of the means of communication everywhere. Even though it is stated that the Kottayam Division has been shown a special concession in the

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matter of new works, I see that, so far as Minachil taluk is concerned, no provision is made. There are several roads and several bridges which have to be constructed and I may mention the bridges on the Errattupetta-Kanjirapalli and Erattupetta-Puyam roads. The condition of the existing roads is also miserable and I believe the Chief Engineer will go and see those places and do the needful.

Before concluding, I wish to say a word as regards the new schemes and appointments contemplated in the budget. As regards the water supply and the electric supply schemes, I beg to submit that these schemes are beneficial only to a practically small section of the population of the State and therefore the cost of those schemes should be borne mostly by the people who are to be benefited by them. As some members suggested, the responsibillty may be entrusted to the Trivandrum Municipality and the Government may advance loans to the municipality, but should not have anything to do with the matter at the sacrifice of the general taxpayer as I think that it is quite unfair.

As regards the appointments to be newly created, the people and their representatives have been bringing before the attention of the Government that no new appointments should be created and that the emoluments of the existing appointments should be reduced as far as possible. But, in spite of that, there is a provision in the budget for a new Income Tax Collector, for a special officer for the revision of the Land Revenue Manual, for temporary Judges and so on. I do not know why the Government are going in for more appointments while the people wish the other way. I hope the Government will reconsider these matters before launching upon those schemes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, an examination of the budget reveals to the public the fact that, in spite of large and increasing revenues the Government realise from the people, they have not cared to bestow sufficient thought to the amelioration of the condition, economic, moral and physical, of the people. In Travancore, it has become a practice to settle the revenues before the expenditure is thought of. Sir, I need hardly tell you that in public finance, what is generally done is first the settlement of the policies and schemes for the ensuing year and of the expenses involved in carrying out those policies and schemes. After having calculated the possible expenditure that has to be incurred, thought is directed to find out the funds to meet the expenditure. It is universally accepted that it is wrong, nay unjust, to take more money from the people than is absolutely necessary. Viewing the budget from this standpoint, we find that the budget, as framed, can hardly be supported. The Government ought to have told us first what their activities are which affect the economic, moral and physical condition of the people, and how they propose to direct those activities for the improvement of those conditions. Travancore being an agricultural country, Government attention must be directed to the improvement of the agricultural condition of the

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people. Extension of cultivation, irrigation, agricultural indebtedness, etc. should have formed subjects of anxious consideration to the Government. The budget shows that no additional care has been bestowed on these matters. The policy of assignment of lands has a material bearing on the prosperity of the people, faced as they are with ever-increasing population and the consequent problem of unemployment. The complaint is universal that while the Government are unsympathetic towards the natives in the matter of assignment of *pudaval* lands, they appear to be over-anxious to oblige the European estates and companies. Sir, within the short period of one year, the Government have assigned or ordered to assign over 12,000 acres of rich forest lands to the European Companies. To Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai's motion for adjournment, it has been light-heartedly stated here that no such assignments were made by the Government. For the information of the House, I shall give the names of European Companies who were given lands by the Government this year.

Lands that were actually registered.

		Acres.
Travancore Tea Estate Company	...	469·35
Peermade Tea Company	...	522·06
Aranakkal Tea Estate	...	120·45
Industrial and Mercantile Company	...	412·47

Lands that were ordered to be registered but the registry has not been completed.

		Acres.
Mr. Richardson for Patrokola Coy.	...	2,000
Mr. Richardson for Vaghamon Estate	...	1,000
Vaghamon Estate	...	400
Mr. Bisset	...	200
Mr. Vincent	...	100
Mr. Mc Mullin for Arnakkal Estate	...	2,000
Madura Company for Patrokola Coy.	...	2,000
Mr. Mc Mullin for Arnakkal Estate	..	3,000

While this is the fact, it is stated with apparent innocence that no such assignments were made. Sir, how can the people have confidence in such professions and protestations? Are not these assignments a crime done to the citizens of the State? It is time that we cry halt to this ruinous policy. The people want that no land in Travancore should be assigned to any foreigner or acquired by a foreigner in Travancore unless it is sanctioned by a committee of this House. We have lost confidence in the Government's safe-guarding the interests of Travancore.

Another department that materially affects the welfare of the people is public health. When compared to what is done in British India and elsewhere, Travancore is doing next to nothing. No additional allotment is made for it, nor have the Government made any new proposal in that direction. Then take education. While there is a universa

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cry that the present literary nature of education is unsuitable and is the real cause of unemployment in the land and while the Dewan himself admitted that and promised to do what he could to overhaul it, is it not disappointing to see that the Government do not propose to move even their little finger next year in this matter? On the other hand, they propose spending comparatively more money on the present higher education in Travancore.

Turn next to the constitutional and political progress of the country. Is there any scheme for consolidating the rights and privileges of the people and extending them? The Government appear to be unwilling even to recognise the rights of the people in the matter of municipal affairs. The situation in the Trivandrum Municipal Council where an official is thrust as the President upon an unwilling Council exposes the utter hollowness of Government's pretensions. The cry for broad-basing the Government on the will of the people is still a cry in the wilderness. The resolutions of this Council are ignored and the Government go on merrily in their autocratic ways. Important but inconvenient interpellations are disallowed and even of the allowed interpellations, only a smaller number is answered. The Legislative Council is not convened as often as has been the practice. The Newspapers Regulation is still disfiguring the statute-book. The Government are unwilling to face the people.

Turn to the public service which has an intimate connection with the prosperity of the people. Unnecessary appointments are created and when once they are brought into existence, they become fixtures. The appointment of a Railway Engineer for Railway Survey is an instance in point. Without any idea of the immediate construction of railways, its feasibility and advisibility, the Government are spending money on survey work. Is this not a waste? Then corruption is on the increase. Loud complaints of corruption alleged against high officers remain unheeded.

PRESIDENT: The half hour's extension of time that I have allowed is up. You will have to stop.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): If the time is not utilised by the official side, may the members on this side speak?

PRESIDENT: If the non-officials exhaust the time, then the officials will not be able to speak after 5o' clock.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Under the rules, the Financial Secretary shall have a general right of reply. Therefore, is it not proper Sir, to allow the members who want to speak on this side to have their say?

PRESIDENT: I regard it quite proper, in accordance with the customs of this House, that the departmental heads should speak after the non-official side has spoken. The members on the official side should have the elementary right, in simple justice, of defending themselves. That right has been recognised up till now and I think it is not right for me to break that right.

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MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): There is no question of precedents to be considered in this matter. This is the first time, I believe, that this question is raised.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): This question has been raised previously. And it has been ruled that the departmental heads should speak after all the non-official members have spoken.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, considering the relatively large proportion of the State expenditure which is on behalf of education, it is but natural that in the general discussion on the budget the non-official members should have devoted considerable time to the consideration of educational policy and educational administration. In the twenty minutes allotted to me, I will endeavour to defend both, as far as I can, but I shall not be able to deal with all the points that have been raised. Some of these will, no doubt, come up again when the demand for education is discussed on Saturday next and I hope that I shall be able to take them up then. I am of course prepared to admit that there are defects in the administration of the department; and it is always necessary to examine and re-examine the policy which is being followed. Personally, I welcome any criticism which exposes defects which may be remedied both in respect of administration and in respect of policy. I myself know of many ways in which improvements may be effected, but in most cases the mere outline of any scheme of improvement quickly brings one up against the fact that the scheme will involve increased expenditure, and the question then arises, where is the money to come from? This year more money is available and education gets an increased allotment, but the increase is not such as will permit of any great scheme being launched or any great change being made.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Director of Public Instruction is convinced that the opinion expressed on this side of the House is unanimous when it was said that the existing system of education is useless for the country?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am sure that the opinions expressed on the other side of the House are not unanimous. Many of the opinions cancelled each other; some were for and some against.

I hope that in the debate on the Education Budget, when it comes up for discussion, members of the Council will make the necessary allowances for the limits which financial considerations impose on educational developments. Without suggesting that any useful analogy can be drawn between conditions here and in England except that both here and in England we aim at the highest possible standard, I will give a few figures regarding education under the London County Council. The population served by the educational authorities under the Council is roughly the same as that of Travancore, *i. e.*, about 40 lakhs. The expenditure on education from rates and taxes is

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roughly £13,000,000 or Rs. 17 crores *i. e.*, about forty times the expenditure in Travancore, or eight times the total revenue of the Travancore State. To put the figures in another way, the expenditure from public funds in Travancore per head of the population is Re. 1 per annum and in London it is Rs. 40. It may be said that in London there are many forms of education which find no place here, but I should perhaps say that—

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it is the whole expenditure of the County Council or whether part of it is borne by the Government?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I have not placed before the House the expenditure borne by the Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is he aware that there are large donations made by private persons?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am aware.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): What is the percentage of expenditure on collegiate education?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I have not got the figures.

It may be said that in London there are many forms of education which find no place here, but I should perhaps say that, of the sum of £ 13,000,000 spent on education, not a penny goes to collegiate education of the kind that we are familiar with here and that £ $10\frac{1}{3}$ millions per annum is spent on elementary education of which £ 6 millions is for the salaries of teachers in Elementary Schools. I can also assure the members of this Council that there is no extravagant provision of any kind in Elementary Schools in London. Education in London too is not above criticism and if the educational authorities spending Rs. 40 per head do not escape it, the Travancore Education Department spending Re. 1 per head cannot hope to remain immune. The Government and the Department are answerable for the wise expenditure of the funds available and can have no objection to criticisms on this point.

Whilst dealing with the financial aspect, I should like to correct the impression which Mr. A. K. Pillai's speech may have left on this Council. His main criticism of the budget was that it was a rich man's budget in the sense that it favoured the rich man at the expense of the poor man, and that this was true even of that portion which deals with education. Mr A. K. Pillai stated, I think, and I hope I am not misrepresenting him, that of the total expenditure of Rs. 45 lakhs budgeted for 1103, only Rs. 8 lakhs was for primary education. The figures, I should imagine, were taken from page 92 of the budget from which it is seen that the expenditure budgeted for primary schools for boys and girls, is Rs. 8·76 lakhs.

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*) : May I ask the Director of Public Instruction whether he is satisfied that the amount spent on behalf of primary education is enough when compared to the huge amount of money that is being spent for collegiate education ?

MR J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I will come to that point later on when I develop my figures. I think my friend knows what proportion is spent on collegiate education and whether that proportion is correct.

On the same page, *i. e.*, page 92, just above the figures for primary schools, there is an item of Rs. 7·75 lakhs for Vernacular High and Middle Schools a large proportion of which is for the primary classes in these schools. On page 100, there is also an item of Rs. 10 lakhs for grants-in-aid. Of this, Rs. 7·47 lakhs is for Vernacular schools (girls' and boys'.)

It is not possible to calculate exactly the amount of expenditure on primary education. But it will be seen that very nearly Rs. 21 lakhs is provided for Vernacular education. I may mention that in Vernacular schools (including primary Schools) in 1099, 92·8 per cent. of the pupils were in primary classes. The report of the Education Department for 1101 also shows on page 13 that in that year the expenditure on Vernacular education was a little over Rs. 22 lakhs, the receipts under the same head being Rs. 1·38 lakhs.

It may even now be the case that poverty alone still prevents some boys and girls from receiving the benefits provided in the recognised schools in the State. The Government have however done a great deal to remove any such possibility. In the primary classes in departmental schools and in most, if not all, of such classes in private schools, no school fees are charged ; in the higher classes, both in Vernacular schools and in English schools, there are fee concessions on a very liberal scale and the qualification for a fee concession is, generally speaking, poverty. The budget estimates give no indication of the loss of fees due to fee concessions in departmental schools, but on page 104 is found a sum of Rs. 65,000 for grants to recognised private schools to meet three-fourths of the loss which Managers incur through adopting the scheme in their schools. There is also a liberal provision for scholarships shown on page 104 and some of these are definitely earmarked for members of the backward classes. I hope, Sir, I shall have an opportunity of referring to the kind of education which is provided in schools and the criticisms on it when the Education budget comes up for discussion.

I should now like to refer to Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's remarks regarding the rejection of the application by the University for the further affiliation of the Women's College. The University has kindly favoured us with a copy of the report made to the Syndicate by the Commission which inspected the Women's College in connection with our application. I do not propose now to discuss this at length as with regard

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to it certain matters may have to be represented to the University. Until this has been done, it would hardly be proper, I think, to have a discussion of these matters in a representative and public assembly such as this Council.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it is mostly on account of want of accommodation that it was not allowed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am coming to that.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the Director whether there has been any incorrect representation of facts as I placed them before the House?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not understand. Is it Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's point that there has been a misrepresentation of facts?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Whether I did misrepresent any fact?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am coming to that too.

I may say, however, that Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's information regarding the grounds for the rejection is partly correct. The available accommodation was not considered adequate by the Inspection Commission. I must, however, also state that there is no indication in the report that the buildings to be provided, the plans of which were submitted to the commission, were considered to be in any sense either unsuitable or inadequate and Mr. Narayana Pillai's apprehensions on this point would not appear to be justified.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know from the Director whether the existing buildings were found to be insufficient by the Commission for the existing classes?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): In regard to the existing buildings, the Commission did say that they were not entirely satisfied.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether my observation in regard to the accommodation of the laboratory in the contemplated extended building whether that found favour with the University Commission?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot give an answer now. I shall have to refer to the report.

The report shows that the writer of the report, and presumably the other members of the Commission, misunderstood the statements made to them regarding the date when the various portions of the building were proposed to be ready. What was proposed to be ready for June 1927 they say would be available only, they understood, from June 1928. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai suggested that with regard to

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the accommodation for the Science subjects, it was strange that I should have made proposals which the University were unable to accept. The refusal of affiliation, at present, by the Syndicate may have been partly due to the misunderstanding as to our proposals regarding accommodation, which I have already referred to, but I would suggest that even if, as regards accommodation, and also in other respects, our proposals were such as did not altogether commend themselves to the Commission, it may have been because the Commission did not see the matter in the same light as we here see it or fully realise the existing situation.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was he not on the Commission and did he not explain things to the Commission?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, I explained things to the Commission.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it was due to the inability on the part of the Commission to know things as they are, or whether it was the inability on the part of the authorities to make them understand, that the affiliation was refused?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): The fact that I have referred to was put down in writing and it was also said in my presence.

In our application to the Registrar, we had pointed out that at the end of the year 1101, there were in the Science College 29 women students in Group II of the Intermediate course and 42 women students in the Arts College studying in the B. A. classes along with a large number of men students.

These facts, it appeared to Government, warranted an application, the success of which would have permitted the Women's College to provide in two years for all or nearly all the women students requiring to take up Natural Science in the Intermediate Course and those who wished to prepare for the B. A. Degree Examination. The situation was one which might have been expected to appeal to the Syndicate as calling for special consideration, especially as the University has been insisting on the staffs of Women's College being composed of women as far as possible.

I may also add that I had satisfied myself that good provision could be made for the teaching of both sets of students and that the provision could be improved within a year or two so as to meet all reasonable requirements.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Commission found the *existing* staff in the Women's College satisfactory?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): They did not express—I think I would be wrong in discussing the Report—any considerable dissatisfaction with the existing staff.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Will the Director be pleased to place a copy of the Report of the University before the House ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : That question is engaging the attention of the Government.

There is one general matter which I may just touch upon, namely, the one raised by Mr. K. K. Thomas who stated that the education must be handed over to the private agencies and only a few model institutions retained for direct control by the Department.

This in its broad outline is the policy of the Government, though I consider, and I think many members in this Council will agree, that some caution must be observed in the transfer, and the policy as regards new institutions has been increasingly followed during the last many years. Before any Government institution is handed over to a private agency, care must be taken to see that private agencies will be able to run the schools properly.

From the report of the department for 1089, I find that of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of pupils nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs or two-thirds were in departmental institutions and 79,000 in private institutions.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : May I know from the Director whether he has been raising the number of departmental institutions year after year ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I think not. During the last two or three years, the number of Government institutions has either fallen or remained stationary, but private institutions have increased considerably in number.

In 1101, out of four lakhs and eighty thousand, a little over two and one-third lakhs or less than half were in departmental institutions and there were more than two and a half lakhs in private institutions. That is, in 1101, there were more pupils in private institutions than there were in 1089 in departmental and private institutions together. This represents considerable progression on the lines proposed by Mr. Thomas. The Council is also aware of the extent to which aided by Government grants University education is being increasingly undertaken by private agencies.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*) : May I know whether the grants-in-aid to private schools have increased in that proportion ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : It cannot have increased in that proportion. It might have increased in proportion to the number of schools. This I cannot exactly say in the absence of figures.

Mr. C. P. Thomas expressed the opinion that the department had no interest in the welfare of teachers of private schools although he said that we give a good deal of attention to buildings, equipment, etc. I may assure Mr. Thomas that the department is greatly interested in the private school teachers and, if managers will show the same concern, there is no doubt that the lot of the private school teachers will be improved.

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For English Schools, to which Mr. Thomas referred, grants are awarded which, roughly speaking, amount to half the deficit incurred in working the school. Many schools do not apply for grants because they run at a profit. In such cases, the managers are well able to raise the salaries of their teachers. When a school is entitled to get a grant, then, to any increase of salary which the manager might give, the Government, under the rules, will contribute one-half.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know if the conditions of the Education.Code are strictly applied in the case of the Government English Schools?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Not absolutely rigorously.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): In the case of strength in English schools, are not the private school managers insisted upon to keep only such number as is allowed in the Code?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): In such cases, I have given exemption to private schools.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does the department give exemption for more than two months as is prescribed in the Code?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): That I cannot exactly say now. But my impression now is that when exemptions are granted in the middle of the year, the same will be in force till the close of the year.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does not the member think that it is rather too hard to insist upon the managers of private schools to abide by the conditions of the Code strictly and be loose in the case of the departmental ones?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I did not quite catch the last part of the question.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does he admit that there is some disparity in the observance of the rule between departmental schools and private schools.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot say that exactly. But some relaxation is allowed in the case of Government schools.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know whether that relaxation is *actually* extended to private schools as well?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I have already said that some relaxation is extended to private schools also. I was explaining that when private schools gain and the profit is not paid to the teacher, it is not the fault of the department that the teachers are not adequately paid.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know whether he understood me correctly? I said that so long as the department is not at all liberal in the matter of giving grants for equipment and buildings, the managers were obliged to spend a lot of money on them and therefore they are not able to give as much salaries to teachers as they would otherwise be able to do?

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MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Unless the private school is working at a loss, the Government money should not be given in support of that school. If there is no deficit, it follows that the manager of the private school is in a position to spend what he considers necessary.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Is the Director aware that no grant was refused in all cases of deficit?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Deficit is calculated according to certain principles laid down in the Code or in certain Government orders. It may be that the managers are not fully aware how the deficit is worked out. If any manager has any doubt on that point, I shall be very glad to give him information.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Is the Director sure that orders or rules are not such as to act adversely against the managers getting grant and the teachers indirectly gaining thereby?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): What the managers deserve to get is the question.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does not the State stand to gain by the school being conducted by private agencies?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I would not say that the State stands to gain. If a private school is better than a Government school, it is the people that gain and the Government are not losers.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): So I understand that no distinction whatever is observed between the Government schools and the private schools in the matter of the observance of the Education Code?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is difference between departmental schools and private schools.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is there any difference in the attitude of the authorities with regard to private and departmental schools?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Private schools are treated as private schools and the Government schools are treated as Government schools. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is there anything like a favourite wife policy on the part of the Government towards private schools?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think so.

I have said that in the case of schools run by managers, if the schools gain and the teachers are not paid enhanced salaries, it is not the fault of the department. In my opinion, if private school teachers are badly paid, the responsibility lies very largely with the private school managers.

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, several members have urged for a larger development in the matter of communications. Since I took charge of the department, I have toured through a great part of

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the State and during my tours, the need for such larger development has been brought to my notice. With a view to dealing with the question in a comprehensive manner, a proposal for the formation of a Road Board consisting of officials and non-officials for the purpose of considering and deciding as to what roads are to be constructed and the order in which their construction is to be taken up, is now under the consideration of the Government. When such a Board is created and it sets to work, it will become possible to proceed with the construction of roads in a systematic manner and I expect it will then be possible to spend more money on communications.

One of the members quoted figures with a view to show that though the revenues of the State had grown from Rs. 185 lakhs in 1096 to Rs. 200 lakhs and odd in 1100, the amount spent on communications was more or less the same between 7 and 8 lakhs. In this connection, I may invite the attention of the House to the Statement on pages 30 and 31 of the P. W. D. Annual Report for 1101, in which the expenditure by Service Heads is compared for the ten years from 1092 to 1101. This statement shows that the total expenditure on communications (works and repairs) had grown from Rs. 10,83,000 to Rs. 15,72,000 or in other words, the expenditure in 1101 was half as much again as that in 1092. In 1103, we have proposed an expenditure of Rs. 17,55,090 which is a further advance over the expenditure in 1101 to the extent of Rs. 2,18,000. The expenditure on works has increased from about Rs. 5½ lakhs in 1092 to about Rs. 8½ lakhs in 1103, and that on repairs or maintenance from about Rs. 7 lakhs in 1092 to nearly Rs. 9 lakhs in 1103. The budget for 1103 shows an advance of no less than Rs. 3 lakhs over 1096 in the matter of communications. These figures will, I hope, convince the House that the Government have not been unmindful of the need for making liberal grants for communications.

Another member said that the major portion of the grant for communications was consumed by the Kottayam and Alwaye Divisions and a major portion out of it by the roads in Peermade and the High Ranges. I have had the figures in the budget for 1103 looked into and it is found that only a third in the case of the Alwaye Division and a seventh in the case of the Kottayam Division of the grant for communications "Works" are allotted for works in the High Ranges and Peermade.

In the case of the former, it would not have been even one-third, had it not been for the fact that we have to pay annually Rs. 30,000 for the Devicolam-Periacanal road constructed and completed some years back under the agreement in force.

In regard to the taking over of the ryots' roads about which Mr. G. Narayana Pillai spoke, the matter was delayed for some time, pending the survey, demarcation and the transfer of the lands concerned to the head of *porambokes*. As this was taking a long time and as, in the meanwhile the roads were getting spoilt for want of maintenance, my predecessor suggested to the Government that the roads constructed before 1924 might be taken over for maintenance in anticipation of the

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survey, demarcation and transfer of the lands. The Government were pleased to accept the suggestion and 104 miles of roads have been taken over for maintenance from 1102 M. E.

In this connection, I may also state that the draft revised rules for Ryots' Roads forwarded by my predecessor are under the consideration of the Government. As the present rules in force were found to be too rigid, they have had to be revised and the revision was urged in this House also.

Several members have urged that the tolls on roads should be abolished.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Can the Chief Engineer think of any country where tolls are levied more than once within a period of 24 hours?

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): I cannot say. The question is under consideration. Recently, the Government have abolished five toll-gates against one new tollgate to be established in 1103 at Krishnapuram.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): May I know the amount collected in the five tollgates together?

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*): I think it is Rs. 13,000.

Mr. G. Raman Menon, comparing the roads in Malaya, described the roads in Travancore as being in a disgraceful condition. To style their condition as disgraceful is, I venture to think, putting things a little too strong. He compared them unfavourably with those in Malaya. I am not sure if Mr. Raman Menon was referring to the main or important roads in Malaya, for he said that the roads there were metalled and asphalted.

There is only one road maintained by the Government in Malaya and that is the Main Central Road, and branch roads are neglected. The planters are constantly complaining about the state of their roads. In big stations such as Kula Lumpur, Ipoh, Taiping, the roads are maintained, but this is done by a State grant, *i. e.*, a subsidy paid by the Sultan of the State.

Mr. A. K. Pillai remarked that buildings loom large. The various departments, such as Education, Medical, Judicial, Excise, Revenue etc., have been pressing for more accommodation. The average expenditure in the five years 1098 to 1102 is only Rs. 2,97,000 against the average of Rs. 5,69,078 in the years 1096 and 1097. The requirements of these departments cannot be put off indefinitely and so, in view of the growth in revenue, a sum of Rs. 4,11,785 is provided in the budget for 1103. The grant under "Repairs" also has had to be increased as numerous buildings which were hitherto under the maintenance of the respective departments have been transferred to the P. W. D. for maintenance.

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Regarding the construction of a suitable building for the District Court at Trivandrum, about which the Deputy President made a reference, it is engaging the attention of the Government.

Now, coming on to irrigation, some of the members remarked that the provision for protective irrigation was poor. I find that the expenditure on protective irrigation has been steadily increasing from Rs. 31,412 in 1096 to Rs. 1,47,397 in 1100. For the year 1103, we have budgeted for an expenditure of Rs. 1,49,651.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What was the amount spent on irrigation in the year 1101 ?

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*) : I have not got the figure ready.

That the necessity for restoring protective irrigation works has been recognised by the Government will be proved by this steady growth in the expenditure and by the appointment of temporary Supervisors for investigation. The results of investigation in the Quilon, Kottayam and Alwaye Divisions are coming in now, and there need be no apprehension that expenditure will be stinted in this direction in the future. In the case of minor irrigation works, a certain procedure as laid down in Sections 8 to 11 of the Irrigation Regulation has to be gone through, and, as this takes time, it has been considered wise not to provide larger allotments until the preliminaries have been settled and the works become ripe or ready for execution. In the case of the major protective irrigation works, in areas outside the Kodayar Project, the question of cess is a matter that has to be settled beforehand in consultation with the Land Revenue Department. Anyway, the desire of the members that more money should be spent on irrigation will be borne in mind.

Mr. Kumara Pillai said that more money should be spent on reproductive irrigation works and extension of channels such as the Pattanam channel and the Thikkanamkod channel and that the Vannanpara scheme should be carried out. I shall look into these questions and see how far these are feasible.

Mr. A. K. Pillai made some remark about the allotment for protective irrigation not being proportionate to the cost of establishment, *viz.*, Rs 5 lakhs. I did not quite follow him. But I would refer him to page 162 of the budget from which it will be seen that the proportionate cost of establishment debited to protective irrigation is only Rs. 31,200 which works out to only 15 per cent.

Mr. Paul Daniel and Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai, referring to the sale of tank-beds, remarked that it was a short-sighted policy and that the breaches occur owing to the disappearance of these small reservoirs, and suggested that the tank-beds should be repurchased and made available as grazing grounds. It is fully recognised by the Government that the preservation of tanks which are useful to form internal storage is most important to the proper working of the project. It is only the few small tanks which, on account of the project, are quite useless as irrigation sources that are sold. The *ayacut* lands under such tanks are fed from the Kodayar Project channels.

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It remains for me to offer some remarks on the Trivandrum Water Supply Scheme and the Trivandrum Electricity Supply Scheme. As regards the former, the Deputy President, Mr. Subba Aiyar, warned us that the cost of the same should not, in actual execution, exceed the original estimate of Rs. 55 lakhs prepared during the time of Mr. F. J. Jacob. I may at once assure him that there is no likelihood of the cost approaching this figure. No doubt, the figure of Rs. 25 lakhs is an approximate one, but I believe it is a fair approximation. A special staff is now working at the preparation of correct detailed estimates.

As regards the purity of water, the reports so far received are favourable.

Regarding the Trivandrum Electricity Scheme, I may state that the scheme provides for street lighting, working of the machinery in the Government institutions in the town and for private consumption, up to a certain extent. The scheme can and will satisfy the demands of all private consumers, as it is merely a question of duplicating the plant. Care will be taken to select the site for the Engine Houses such that it will admit of expansion.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*) : May I know whether he proposes to complete the Shertallai-Arur road during the next year?

MR. A. VIPAN (*Chief Engineer*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Mr. Madhavan Pillai said, Sir, that while the people were groaning under the miseries brought about by the floods, I raised the price of salt in the Shencotta taluk by 7 as. per maund. From what he said, it would appear that I was a big monster. But, to begin with, let me say, Sir, that the Shencotta taluk was one of those taluks not affected by the floods. (*Louder please.*)

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Has he read the Land Revenue Commissioner's report?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, I have read it.

Secondly, the sale of salt by the department is a commercial business; and we should always sell salt without actually incurring any loss. The breach in the railway between Tenmalai and Shencotta necessitated the carrying of 400 bags of salt in head-loads and cart-loads and the increase in the price by 7 annas is only the actual cost of transport that the Government had to incur on account of the breach in the railway. It should also be remembered that it was only these 400 bags that were sold at the higher price.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): How long was that line interrupted; for what period?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : The line was interrupted for the period during which it was necessary to carry 400 bags.

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): What was the balance at the depot?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The balance was exhausted. That is why salt had to be carried in head-loads and cart-loads.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): What was the cause that led to the interruption of the railway?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): There was heavy rainfall on the railway line and the line was washed away as a consequence. But the Shencotta taluk was not affected at all. The agriculture or the trade in the Shencotta taluk was not at all affected by the floods.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the member mention the taluks which were entirely affected by the floods?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not in a position to give that information now. My point is that the people of Shencotta were not at all affected by the floods. No remission was granted to them. Their crops were not affected in the least. They did not sustain any loss. It appeared to me, Sir, when I heard Mr. Madhavan Pillai, that I was a cruel monster.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I too thought so and still think so since you did that at that time.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): If you do so, I can only deplore your mentality. As I already stated, we are doing commercial business and so cannot incur loss in the sale of salt.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): The department should not have made any profit out of the sale of salt at that time when the people were in sore distress.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): We did not make any profit. The increase of 7 annas in the price was intended only to cover the cost of transport that the Government actually incurred on account of the breach in the railway line.

I shall prove, Sir, that we are not so inhuman, that the Excise Department is not so inhuman as Mr. Madhavan Pillai attempted to show. We allowed remission to the extent of Rs. 32,000 to those men who suffered from the floods. We granted a remission of kist to the shop-holders in the areas affected by the floods.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Was there any decrease in the quantity, sold in 1100, either of opium or ganja or arrack or toddy? Mr. Van Ross said that a sum of Rs. 32,000 was remitted in favour of the contractors. How did they lose when they were able to sell larger quantities?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I should be glad, Sir, if the doctor would kindly show that these particular shops sold more than in the previous year. There are many shops which are situated in places which were not affected by the floods at all. But we granted remissions only to shops situated in the affected areas.

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): But the Excise Commissioner has not given the figures in regard to these shops alone. I see from the figures that the total quantity sold is more than in the previous year.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The total quantity sold might have increased; but the increase might have been in places not affected by the floods.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Excise Commissioner kindly give us the names of the contractors who were allowed remissions and the places where their shops were situated?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The member can get the information from the Administration Report which shows the remission granted against each taluk.

Mr. Madhavan Pillai spoke about the auction system also. The auction system has, certainly, some defects. But, considering all other systems for the disposal of shops, it has been found that the auction system is by far the best.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Sir, I did not say anything about the auction system.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I thought he referred to it. I am sorry if he has not.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Somebody else referred to that.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have got it noted down against Mr. Madhavan Pillai's name. Probably somebody else referred to it. I am sorry if he did not. Somebody else said, Sir, that it encourages the drink habit and so on. But let me say, Sir, that it is about the best system that has been discovered as yet. The Government of India have also declared their opinion on this matter.

"They held that it is the best system hitherto evolved for the disposal of shops, that it had the supreme advantage of completely preventing the growth of vested interests, that it did not in fact stimulate consumption, that it was the only system by which the real value of a shop could be ascertained and that any other system would lead to corruption and chicanery in the disposal of the licenses."

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the book that he is reading from?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Stathie on "Excise". The Excise Committee appointed by the Government to consider this question came to the same conclusion after considering all the other systems that had been tried in other places.

In regard to export duty, Mr. Madhavan Pillai said that it was very extraordinary that this country alone levied it from the people. I admit, Sir, that Travancore is unique in this matter. Our customs revenue depends to a great extent on export duty. Travancore has a lot of raw materials which have great value outside. For example, our copra is superior to Ceylon copra and is therefore largely in demand.

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The same is the case with pepper also. Such products can easily bear an export duty. Moreover, this export duty is being levied from very ancient times.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): In those ancient times, was there so much competition from outside?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not in a position to say that now. But I know there is competition now. All the same, our pepper is largely in demand outside. Every grain is sold out. Nothing is left in stock. After all, the export duty is not a big strain on the producer, and the whole amount collected is available for use in the country itself. In connection with the questionnaire of the Fiscal Commission, I had occasion to consult many land-holders and merchants in regard to this question of export duty. They had absolutely no complaint whatsoever about it. It is only a fraction of their margin of profit that they pay as duty; and moreover, as I have already stated, all that we collect is spent for our own benefit.

Mr. Madhavan Pillai also said that, although we profess in our Abkari policy that we were working for temperance, the actual results were absolutely against our professions. I am afraid I must join issue with him in this matter. We should not judge the result by comparing the consumption in a particular year with that of the previous year, because there are several factors which affect the consumption. But if we judge the results by comparing the figures of a series of years, that would be a fairer test. In 1095, the quantity of arrack consumed was 1,60,000 gallons, whereas last year, it was only 1,15,000 gallons. There has been a fall in the consumption to the extent of 45,000 gallons which works out to 3 lakhs of bottles. These figures will prove to a great extent the temperance work that the department has been carrying on. (Mr. W. H. Pitt: *Hear, hear.*)

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether there has been any increase in the consumption of toddy?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that the Excise Commissioner makes a distinction between temperance and prohibition?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Certainly, I do.

Mr. Sivatanu Pillai said that I claim to be the Pussy-foot of Travancore. Sir, I do not claim to be a Pussy-foot. I wish I could. But I must say, Sir, that I claim to be a temperance worker.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): How is his department disposed towards prohibition?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That is a different question. I am coming to that.

As regards temperance work, Sir, the department has always been carrying on temperance work; and I am proud to say that in spite of the

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cheap sneer of Mr. Sivatanu Pillai, we are the best temperance workers in the State to-day.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is not the department opposed to prohibition?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I would request the member not to confuse temperance with prohibition. I will speak of prohibition presently.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does not the Excise Commissioner remember that on a previous occasion he said that the department is the best advocate either of temperance or of prohibition?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No, I never said '*prohibition*'. I said '*temperance*'. I know there are several members who always talk of temperance and of the drink evil. But the actual work lies in going about the country, speaking to the people who are addicted to the evil, persuading them not to drink and doing such propaganda work. There is no use in merely talking of temperance and prohibition in this Council or on the platform.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Has the department done any such work?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Certainly, we are doing it every day. (*Laughter.*) We have been advising people not to drink. We have increased tree tax and the duty on liquor. We have reduced the number of shops. We are throwing all kinds of obstacles in the way of those who drink. It is easy for the members to stand up here and speak and sneer at the department.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ചങ്ങനാശേരിയിൽ ഒരു കോ ആപ്പറേറിവ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ മദ്യപാനത്തെ വിരോധിച്ചു പ്രസംഗിച്ചതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ശാസിച്ചു എഴുതി അയച്ചതായി അറിയാമോ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Absolutely wrong. An answer has been given to an interpellation about this matter. I am sorry that the member is bringing up the false story again.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): അന്നു ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ കോആപ്പറേറിവ് രജിസ്ട്രാർ മുഖാന്തിരം അന്വേഷണം നടത്തണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): For the benefit of the member, I will state what exactly happened. The Co-operative Inspector refused to give loans to some men who used to drink. My Assistant Commissioner said that he should not frighten people in that manner and that he should not intimidate them.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is he aware that distinguished members of the House like Messrs. A. K. Pillai, K. I. Joseph and M. Sivatanu Pillai have been vigorously carrying on anti-drink campaign in their respective places?

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MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): My objection to your work is that there is more of compulsion than of persuasion. Compulsion is what I am against. That will not do any good. We should rather point out to them the evils of drink, convince them of the evils and persuade them to leave off the habit.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I am not able to hear what Mr. Van Ross is saying.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I say that the anti-drink campaign referred to by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai was more of compulsion than of persuasion.

MR. K I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know the grounds on which Mr. Van Ross makes that statement?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I decline to enter into the grounds.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is Mr. Van Ross sure that no other member has been doing anything in this direction? (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not say so at all.

Then, with regard to prohibition, it is a wrong principle of sound government to impose a law when the people are not prepared for it and when they are against it. If the people are prepared for prohibition, there is no need for legislation at all, since even without such a law they would avoid drink.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know if Mr. Van Ross condemns the Government of America?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): America is making a sad spectacle of herself, as far as I am aware. This is what the Madras Mail says about the question.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I rise to a point of order. The member is quoting a newspaper.

PRESIDENT: He is *reading* it out.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There is a prior ruling that information from newspapers should not be admitted.

PRESIDENT: So long as the member vouches for its accuracy, there is no harm in reading it.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I will not read it if you do not want it; but I will give the substance of it without reading it.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Is the Madras Mail the authority on the subject?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The Madras Mail has got a sensible article which I will read to you. My point is that in this matter there is no use in contenting ourselves with platform speeches. You must go among the people and do propaganda work if you really love the people.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will Mr. Van Ross recommend a scheme to appoint half a dozen people to do propaganda work, out of the allotment for the Excise Department?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): If all of you really love the country, you will certainly do propaganda work without payment. (*Laughter*).

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): May I know why he was keeping a shop for the purpose of selling 22 gallons of arrack per year?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know—

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Let me first answer the question of Mr. Madhavan Pillai. There are some shops in the Shertallai taluk which sell very little arrack. Still we maintain them because, if they are taken away, that will give a direct incentive to illicit distillation. Already there is a good deal of illicit distillation, because patrol work is difficult as there are few roads there. And so these shops are maintained to take away the excuse of the people to carry on illicit distillation. As soon as the roads are completed and our men are able to move about, I expect a considerable increase in the consumption; because a good deal of licit arrack will be replacing the illicit arrack.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is it his argument that the arrack shop referred to by the Commissioner is a substitute for the road?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am sorry the member has misunderstood me. I have no time to explain now.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does it mean that the arrack shops are situated in places where people do not want them?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is there not a complaint from the people to the effect that particular arrack shops should be removed?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): If there has been any representation and if I have been satisfied that it is genuine, then the shop has been removed from the place.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Am I to understand that the Excise Commissioner has been in receipt of such complaints?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, I have received and attended to them.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know why certain complaints have been treated with indifference?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Because I must have found the complaints not *bona fide*.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know how such complaints have been found not *bona fide*?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Because, in spite of these requests, illicit practice was going on in the neighbourhood with regard to arrack,

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was there any prosecution with reference to such illicit traffic?

MR A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissinoer*): Of course, if there was any such illicit traffic, there was prosecution.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is it because there was such illicit traffic that such complaints were treated as not *bona fide*?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I think that we must trust the department to know its business.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether he is aware of the practice of temporarily transferring shops close to temples during festivals?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No, not during the past three years.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know if any propaganda work was done in Shertallai?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, we did it; that is why no facility for drink was given during the last Puram festival.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is he able to give the number of shops in Shertallai now?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I will refer the member to the Administration Report.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is it in any way less than the number we had in the previous year?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, it has been considerably reduced. During the time of the farming contract, there was a large number. I have considerably reduced it, and again during the auction last year, I reduced it by 5 per cent. and it will be again subjected to reduction at the renewal of each contract.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): As a result of the propaganda work, was there any reduction in the abkari revenue?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, we recently had to resell several shops at heavy loss. That was not entirely due to temperance work; it was also due to economic distress of the people of the place. I believe as trade develops and people have money, they will drink more.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know in what all taluks in the State drinking is in abundance?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): If the member will look into the Administration Report, he will be able to find the taluk-war consumption in the State.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Was toddy selling at a higher price in those taluks than last year?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether drinking habit has anything to do with economic distress?

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MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Am I to understand that one who is addicted to drink will ever care for the purse ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, he will ; otherwise he will go to the jail.

There was one other point referred to by Mr. Madhavan Pillai, namely, the fall in the price of copra. He asked whether Government will enquire about it. If we look into the old figures, we will find that during the war and just after it the price of copra was abnormally high, and then we raised our tariff value accordingly, and when in time normal conditions in Europe were returning, economic distress remained and prices fell there ; but we have not gone very much below pre-war prices, so that Government had no occasion to be anxious.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is the Commissioner aware that during the latter period of the war there was no demand for copra ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : It was at that time that the price began to decline.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is the Excise Commissioner aware that the British Government have abolished arrack shop in the Tenkasi taluk ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, I am watching the experiment, so that I may benefit by the results of that experiment.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Am I to understand that, as a result of it the department is selling more arrack in Shencotta taluk ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : That is not what I meant.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Did he read the report of the Madras Excise administration regarding the limitation of liquor traffic in 5 taluks ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Does it not show that smuggling of arrack continues ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : As far as I know, they have not been able to prove even a single case.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I wish to make one or two observations on the general matters that have been discussed in the House. Mr. A. K. Pillai said—and I believe he was followed by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai—that the budget that has been presented to the House is a rich man's budget. If the charge is a true one, then I think it is really a grave one. Sir, I emphatically repudiate that charge. For, if we examine the budget from the beginning to the end, we shall find that there are clear indications to show that this budget, more than any other that has been presented to this House in

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the past, has been framed with special regard to the needs of the poor man. The departments which contribute to the moral and material improvement of the people have been specially considered by the Government. Take, for instance, education. Mr. Stephenson has very clearly pointed out how provision has been made in the budget for combating illiteracy in the backward taluks of the State. There is increased provision in the Education Budget for more primary schools; there is also increased provision for grants. All this is for the expansion of education, and most of these, especially the provision for primary education and education in backward localities, will go to benefit the poor. I will also refer to certain other items which go more to the root of the matter. Take the Medical Budget. Sir, we have provided money for opening seven new dispensaries—a record year, I should say. In no previous years have we sanctioned so many new dispensaries; and these are to be located in places which are not now in enjoyment of medical relief.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know what are the places where these dispensaries are proposed to be opened? Are they shown in the budget?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; the budget itself shows where these dispensaries are proposed to be opened.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Do the Government expect the people of the locality to provide themselves with the building?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The people of the locality have shown their anxiety to such an extent that they have often offered buildings and furniture.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will it not be possible for the Government to take upon themselves this expenditure?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Why should the Government go to that extent when the people of the locality, at any rate the rich people, come forward and pay the money?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Supposing we consider a locality where the poor people alone live and are unable to put up buildings?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have never heard of a case like that. There has been no case, so far as I am aware, of any locality where the people have been refused a dispensary because they have not been able to provide the building.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether the Government are satisfied that the provisions for medical relief are going to reach the poor people?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think they would certainly reach.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether Mr. George listened to the criticism that has been levelled by Mr. Habeeb Mahomed this morning that the dispensaries serve only the rich people and that the doctors attend only on those patients who pay?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is not a correct statement. I believe it is the personal experience of many of us here that the needs of the poor people are met by these dispensaries.

That is one clear indication that, more than ever, the Government have been mindful of the case of the poor people.

Take, again, the question of public health. I do not think there was any previous year in which the Government decided to open eight new sanitary stations in one year, at places where these stations are most needed and where the existing conditions are decidedly such as called for urgent attention.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know the proportion of expenditure estimated on account of the increase in expenditure on primary education and increase in the number of Sanitary institutions and dispensaries as compared with the expenditure on water supply and electric supply schemes?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Water supply is for the health and sanitation of the town.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What about electricity?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Lighting of the town by electricity will be advantageous to all people.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Telephone supply?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Certainly, commercial people and Government offices will benefit by it, bacause business will be transacted much more quickly.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Are all these measures considered beneficial to the poor people?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. I have said, Sir, that the budget has been condemned on the ground that it is a rich man's budget. I say, more than ever, it is the poor man's budget.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Am I right in understanding the Chief Secretary's position to be this, that is to say, comparatively, this year we have provided more for the poor people?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Consistently with the funds at our disposal, we have shown far more liberality towards the poor. In speaking of sanitation, I wish to say that a large amount has been provided for sinking of wells. Rs. 3,000 have been provided for the Sambavars alone, and Rs. 5,000 for the sinking of wells in rural areas. The total expenditure on this account alone comes to Rs. 13,000.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does it include any provision for the Karkad road?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I decline to be drawn into any controversy with regard to that. We have ample time to discuss that matter.

Speaking of public works, the Chief Engineer has clearly pointed out how in the matter of communications, the Government have been adopting a progressive policy. So I say it is unfair to be accused of a mentality of heartlessness and callousness when the Government have been particularly anxious, this year more than ever, to look after the needs of the people.

I should speak of another charge which my friend Mr. Raman Menon has levelled against the Government, *viz.*, that the Government are unmindful of the wishes of the representatives of the people in various matters. As instances, he cited the resolutions regarding abolition of tolls and the reduction of Anchal rates. I shall not discuss this at length, but I can assure the member that these matters have not been laid aside or forgotten. It is not that Government are unmindful of the representations of the people. The discussion in the Counci with regard to the question of toll discloses the fact that the Council was not at all averse to the rich man paying for the use of the roads. Now, the roads are maintained by the Government at considerable expense and that comes from the pockets of the taxpayer, the poor man included. I say that it is no new thing that the user of the road should pay something towards its upkeep—that is why tolls are levied. The only objection as far as I can make out is that the people who ply country carts are also taxed and that it is a vexatious tax. I may assure the House that the Government have not at all laid aside this question. They have asked the Chief Engineer and the Police Commissioner to devise ways and means by which the spirit of the resolution can be given effect to.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What about the toll on boats in Kuttanad canals?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That has come up before the Government only recently and I may assure the member that the Government will consider the matter seriously. Then there is the other resolution about the reduction in the rates of Anchal cards and stamps; that also has not been altogether set aside. It is under the serious consideration of the Government. So, I think the charge that the Government are unmindful of the wishes expressed by the representatives of the people in this House is groundless. The consideration of these questions may take time. But, all the same, the Government can never be accused of the charge of neglecting the representations of the members of this House.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): ചന്തക്കരം നിർത്തലാക്കുവാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ധനസ്ഥിതി സമ്മതിയ്ക്കുമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ധനസ്ഥിതി നല്ലതുതന്നെ. ചന്തക്കരം നിറുത്തുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ധനസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാനില്ല.

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MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): എന്തുകൊണ്ടു ചന്ത ക്കരം നിത്തിയില്ല?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടേ?

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): ചന്തക്കരം സാധുക്ക ളിൽനിന്നും ഈടാക്കുന്നതാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): ചന്തയിൽപോകു ന്ന സാധുക്കളും ധനവാന്മാരും എല്ലാവരും കരം കൊടുക്കണം.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): കാലത്തു നടത്തു ന്നചന്തകളും അന്തിച്ചന്തകളെപ്പോലെ ആണെന്നു ഗവർമെൻറിനറിയാ മോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

Sir, next I wish to correct the statement made by one or two members here that reproductive works should be executed only by loan money. I do not know whether that is an axiomatic proposition to make. There arise one or two considerations when we think about that. The argument brought forward was this. Why should this generation pay for the convenience which the next generation and the future generations will enjoy? I think, Sir, there is a popular fallacy underlying that. Unless the loan is raised on a permanent basis, that is, as a permanent debt, or unless it covers a period of, say, sixty or one hundred years, it is the present generation that will have to pay. It is they that are to meet the interest charges and the sinking funds. Unless the loan is carried on for a period covering over two or three generations, the existing generation generally pays for it. Then, again, is this balance that you are devoting for your purposes your own? I think it is the accumulation of previous generations. So, I say that there is a fallacy underlying the statement.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the Chief Secretary when the accumulation began?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It might have begun generations back.

Again, when we have got large surpluses and ample funds in our hands which we are depositing in interest-bearing securities outside the State in British India and where they are used for the construction of railways and irrigation projects, the proposition that we should borrow loans for meeting our own needs at a high rate of interest, I think, Sir, is one which is not at all economically sound.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the Chief Secretary whether the money deposited in British Indian securities cannot be given as loans to the municipalities here for this purpose?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : That is quite another matter. I am at the question of borrowing money for reproductive works when we have got money in our hands. It means that we should borrow money at a higher rate of interest while at the same time we lend our surplus balances outside either to banks or to the Imperial Government at lower interest.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : ആരുടെ അപേക്ഷ പ്രകാരമാണ് ഇങ്ങനെ ഇൻവെസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്തത്?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I rise to a point of order, Sir. The member is not in his seat.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : That is the position about using loan money for reproductive works. But, Sir, I agree with one aspect of this view, that our fluid resources should not be locked up in large projects. If we lock them up in large projects, what would happen is that for our normal developments we would not have money to spend.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*) : May I know from the Chief Secretary whether the Trivandrum Municipality has guaranteed any interest on the capital outlay for the works in connection with the water supply and electricity supply?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Not yet.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Was the municipality ever consulted in regard to them?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I think it was consulted about the water supply scheme some time ago.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*) : May I know whether for the Kodayar Project Government funds were used?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, the surplus resources were used.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : വെളിയിൽ ഇൻവെസ്റ്റ്മെൻറ് ധാരാളം ഉള്ളപ്പോൾ കൊല്ലം-തിരുവനന്തപുരം റയിൽവെയ്ക്ക് കടംവാങ്ങിച്ചതിന്റെ കാരണമെന്ത?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : That was several years ago.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : What did the Government do in regard to the Quilon-Shencotta Railway?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : For that, we never borrowed. That was I think very many years ago.

Sir, I have only one point more to say. That is a minor matter. Mr. C. P. Tarakan complimented the Government about calling for tenders in the matter of the medical contracts.

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MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Will the Chief Secretary kindly explain why it is that the Government did not make the Municipality of Trivandrum pay at least a portion of the expenses in connection with the two schemes that have been proposed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think that the Trivandrum Municipality is in a position to pay for them at present. It has only a very small balance in its hands.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are the Government prepared to take up the work in regard to water supply on behalf of the Nagercoil Municipality inasmuch as they have readily taken it up on behalf of the Trivandrum Municipality?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe the Nagercoil Municipality has offered to take up the work themselves.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Did the Government ask the Trivandrum Municipality whether they were prepared to take up the work?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think, Sir, the Trivandrum Municipality stands on a different footing.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government asked the Trivandrum Municipality whether they were prepared to take up the work?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If the Nagercoil Municipality have offered to do the work themselves, I do not think it is necessary for the Government to ask whether the Government should do it on their behalf.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I want to know whether the Government asked the Trivandrum Municipality whether they were prepared to take up the work.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not the correspondence with me now. I believe the reverse is the case.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know whether the Government do not at all think of asking the municipality to spend in connection with the work?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The whole matter has not been finally considered and settled.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Have the Nagercoil Municipality offered to take up the work themselves?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe so. That is my memory.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): May I know from the Chief Secretary whether the water in Alleppey is in any way better than that in Trivandrum?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say. The members who have lived in Alleppey and in Trivandrum are expected to know much better.

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MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): What about the water supply at Alleppey ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We must proceed to do one thing at a time.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Is not the water in Alleppey worse than that in Trivandrum ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think there are facilities in Alleppey for inaugurating water supply. Trivandrum is a much larger city and it is the Capital.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikom*): Have the Government considered the matter of water supply in Alleppey ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not able to answer that question now. If it is pressed on the attention of the Government, they would consider it.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikom*): Was not this matter brought to the attention of the Government by means of a deputation at Alleppey ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Who will receive the tax—the Municipality or the Government ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It has to be settled.

I was saying that Mr. Tarakan was complimenting the Government for inviting tenders for the medical supplies and suggested that the Government should do the same for the stationery contract. I may assure the member that we have already invited tenders for the supply of stationery and tenders have been invited both in India and in England.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Have not the Government ordered certain materials which are easily available in Trivandrum, I mean, have not the Government given orders to London agencies for the supply of materials which are easily available in Trivandrum ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have not yet given any orders to the London agencies for the supply of stationery articles.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I am not speaking of the stationery articles. I am speaking in regard to the medical stores. I want to know whether the Government have ordered certain materials which can be had easily in Trivandrum, as for example, ginger.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. It happens that getting tinctures from outside is much cheaper than the local supply.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I mean ginger and not tincture.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Does the member mean ഇഞ്ചി ?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Yes.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have not ordered ginger.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, ginger is included in the list of materials under a Latin name. We may as well add pure water in the list under the name of *aqua pura*.

PRESIDENT: I do not understand you, Mr. A. K. Pillai. Is it ginger or tincture of ginger that you say? Will you make yourself clear?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I took the trouble of looking into the dictionary what the Latin name meant and found out that it meant ordinary ginger and found that it had been included in the list.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have never ordered raw ginger. We have only ordered tinctures. I do not think the Medical Department uses raw ginger.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the Government have not been putting off the most elementary and urgent works in rural areas pleading that there are no funds?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think so. On the contrary, the Government are anxious as far as possible to allocate funds for the betterment of rural areas.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, the most careful criticism that has been made against the budget came from my friend, Mr. Madhavan Pillai. It was a very thoughtful and thought-provoking speech. He asked me various questions. He asked me: "On what basis have you framed the budget? Do you know the people of Travancore? Do you know that they can bear the burden of taxation which this budget presupposes?" Well, Sir, since last night, I have been carefully considering how far I can say in reply to my friend as to whether I have known the people of Travancore sufficiently in regard to this particular point. I must say, Sir, that though I was born in Travancore and spent the best part of my life here—

PRESIDENT: I do not think he was referring to you personally. He referred to the administration and the officers as a whole.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Well, Sir, I will not say further about it. So far as the actual budget is concerned, on the receipt side, we do not propose any new tax and our budget went on the assumption of the existing taxes on incomes derivable by Government from the laws in force in the State. On the expenditure side, as the details have been given to the members both in the speech and in the budget as also in the further speeches that have been made, it will be clear that provision has been made, as far as possible, consistent with the moneys at the disposal of the Government for the year for the requirements of the various departments and in particular of the departments which spend money for the people at large in regard to matters affecting them

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very vitally, I mean—education and public works. The details of these figures are already before the House and they have had explanations as to the various details connected with the expenditure on education under the various heads and also under Public Works.

Sir, there is one point, however, where, with the permission of my friend, I have to make a small observation, that is, in regard to the figures given yesterday. It was with regard to the burden of taxation that Mr. Madhavan Pillai refrered to the incidence of taxation in British India as a whole and observed that the incidence of taxation in Travancore per head of the population stands at a higher figure than the incidence of taxation per head of the population in British India. I do not think, Sir, that this is so. I have myself been looking up these figures and I find that against B. Rs. 5-9 as-9 ps. which Mr. Madhavan Pillai gave yesterday as the incidence of taxation in British India, including Land Revenue, our actual figure is only Sirkar Rs. 4·9, that is under Sr. Re. 5. If we add on both sides the burden of taxation from local rates which amount to a considerably larger figure in British India than here, the figures would be about eight annas more in British India and only Rs. ·07 more in Travancore.

The next point that I wish to refer to is the premium on Rs. 60 lakhs of 1960-70 bonds that we have purchased and which was shown in the accounts as a formal increase of revenue. In the first place, Sir, I shall say that it was pointedly mentioned in the speech that this increase was purely formal. I am only referring to it in particular, because one member at least, I think, mentioned that it was a case of jugglery with figures. I carefully wanted to avoid any such conclusion being drawn by the House. It is true that we bought at Rs. 89-4-6, which was the average price, and the difference between the face value at maturity and this cost price has, in accordance with the practice prevalent in the State during the past several years, been shown as an increase. Sir, Mr. Lampard asked yesterday what would be the position if we had to sell this security. How could we show in a statement of assets and liabilities the securities that we have purchased at a higher figure than the cost price or market value? There is certainly a great deal in what Mr. Lampard said and intended to convey. But the State balance sheet is quite different from a company's balance sheet. In fact, it is materially different. You do not see all the assets set out and brought forth in a State balance sheet. Where is the expenditure that has been incurred on the Trivandrum-Quilon line? You will not find it in the balance-sheet at all. We have chosen to spend it from our own resources, but it is not there. Then, again, all the money spent on the Kodayar Project does not appear here.

Coming more minutely into these figures—I do not wish to weary the House—I wish merely to point out that there is another class of securities for Sinking Funds. These securities are held at their cost price. If we want to convert them into money, we may get a little profit, but there will be no loss. Sir, when the time comes for us to use these securities for discharging our obligations in respect of the Quilon-Shencotta line, it will be quite reasonable to expect that these securities

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[Mr. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

that we have now purchased would have appreciated by that time sufficiently high so that the actual difference will not be so much as to cause us any anxiety. I do not mention all these with a view to justify the practice in vogue. I am only submitting this for the information of the House.

Sir, about the capital expenditure, members have enquired as to how I can call it commercial or in other words how I can call it really reproductive. They ask what safeguards I have provided for seeing that there is a return to the general taxpayer. I am sure the criticism directed by some members would have been perhaps avoided if they had realised that this would be more or less in the way of an advance from the general funds for particular purposes, which would have to be repaid to the general funds by a suitable provision for sinking fund, besides the interest, and by making proper arrangements for the return of this money by levy of suitable cesses or otherwise. In the budget, we have provided these as lump sums and we are only at a stage of preparing necessary plans and detailed estimates. When the stage of construction is reached, the Government would certainly see that the general taxpayer does not lose by the special benefits conferred upon the Trivandrum city by this advance.

Another point that I wish to submit to the House is in regard to the Land Mortgage Banks. Naturally, the question of agricultural indebtedness, to the extent to which it might exist, is keenly in the minds of members who must have come very intimately in touch with the people at large and it is only natural that they should advocate some means for ameliorating the condition of the poor classes who might be overburdened with debts, especially the agricultural classes. The question of Land Mortage Banks in India is yet a matter of experiment and the Government are giving their careful consideration to this matter. They are studying the details, but they are not yet in a position to say how soon they might be able to establish these banks.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Do the Government expect that the agriculturists would be able to raise long-term loans ?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : That is the point to which I am coming. If in this matter the co-operative societies will come forward and give long-term loans, the Government might consider the matter.

I was about to say that the figures for the agricultural loans would be standing over Rs. 5½ lakhs at the end of next year and members might have noticed that we are giving an advance of Rs. 5 lakhs to the State-aided Bank of Travancore which has been started. So that, it will be seen that the Government would have placed at the disposal of the Bank and for other purposes connected specially with the ryots about ten and a half lakhs of rupees at the end of next year. I am not mentioning these

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details to say that this is sufficient to meet the needs of the agricultural people. But I am only giving the information as much as it is now in the budget.

There is only one other point which is a small matter—it is now 5 O' clock and I do not wish to detain the House by referring to details,—it is only about the Medical Department. One member asked whether we could not introduce a system of charging for medicines in the case of the rich. I might inform the House that the Government have before them a scheme which the Medical Board has submitted for trying to subsidise hospitals and dispensaries in places which are suitable and where enterprising doctors are willing to come forward at a moderate remuneration. The scheme is before the Government and is receiving their consideration.

Another question which was raised here was that a scale of fees should be fixed for the visits of doctors. That question also will be solved soon because the Government have to slove it in the case of the class of doctors who will be coming into the field.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Before he sits down would he answer my point with regard to the decision of the civil courts in regard to grant of *pattas* and rectification of the same?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I may mention that I made a careful note of it and I must confess I shall certainly devote my careful consideration to it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I understand from the member whether with respect to the recovery of the agricultural loans, there is any trouble?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I am sure, Sir, the Land Revenue Commissioner can answer the question better as he is operating the Land Improvements and Agricultural Loans Regulation.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): How did you arrive at the incidence of taxation at Rs. 4.9?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I took the same basis as in British India as Mr. Madhavan Pillai has mentioned. He can take my assurance for that.

PRESIDENT : We will now adjourn and re-assemble on Friday morning at half past eleven.

The Council adjourned at 5 P. M.

T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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